河内遙 時代短編集

チルヒ

河内遙

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定価：本体933円+税

小池書院

If nothing changes
whether one laughs or cries,
then in this lifetime,
I refuse to cry.

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小池書院

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Kawachi Haruka Short Stories Collection

CHIRUHI

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春

Spring

Chiruhi

Day of Scattering

If nothing
changes
whether one
cries or laughs,

then
in this
lifetime,

I shall
refuse
to cry.

TIME FOR YOUR MEAL.

ORIN,

CLINK

THANK YOU.

CLINK

ICHIYA SUSHI.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?

ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE.

DO HAIRDRESSERS HAVE THAT MUCH SPARE TIME?

HE'S HERE AGAIN.

On that day...

How disgusting.

FWOOSH

SNAP

ORIN

YOU HAVE ONE MORE JOB BEFORE MEALTIME

HMPH

BE GLAD

MATSU-NAKAYA-SAN HAS COME FOR YOU.

SURE

I HAVE MISSED YOU SO MUCH

ORIN-CHAN

KLUK

.....
HEHEHE
WE WILL BE WAITING
I WILL COME AGAIN WHEN IT IS TIME TO VIEW THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
BETTER THAN CATCHING SOME DISEASE
THAT MAN ALWAYS GOES TOO FAR
HOW MUCH DO YOU CHARGE TO ROW A PATRON IN YOUR BOAT?
BASTARD! YOU'RE USELESS LIKE THIS

YOUR FORELOCKS WERE JUST CUT

GUESS YOUR FOREHEAD MUST HAVE LOST TO THE RAZOR BLADE

SWISH

YOU.

*T/N: Young men shave the area around their forehead when entering adolescence.

LET ME SEE HIM FOR A BIT

SORRY?

AH, THIS IS A "RANCHU"*

WHO IS HE?

*T/N: Highly-regarded fancy goldfish in Japan

.....

THEY PUT UP A GOLDFISH SHOP ON THE OTHER SIDE

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T HE?

REMIND ME OF YOU.

Trip

THE SHINY RED PARTS HERE

.....

YOU CAN HAVE IT

CREAK

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU.

CREAK

I KNOW

HE'S A REGULAR CUSTOMER

THEN I'LL BECOME

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

YOUR EARLIER PATRON CAN'T YOU REFUSE HIM?

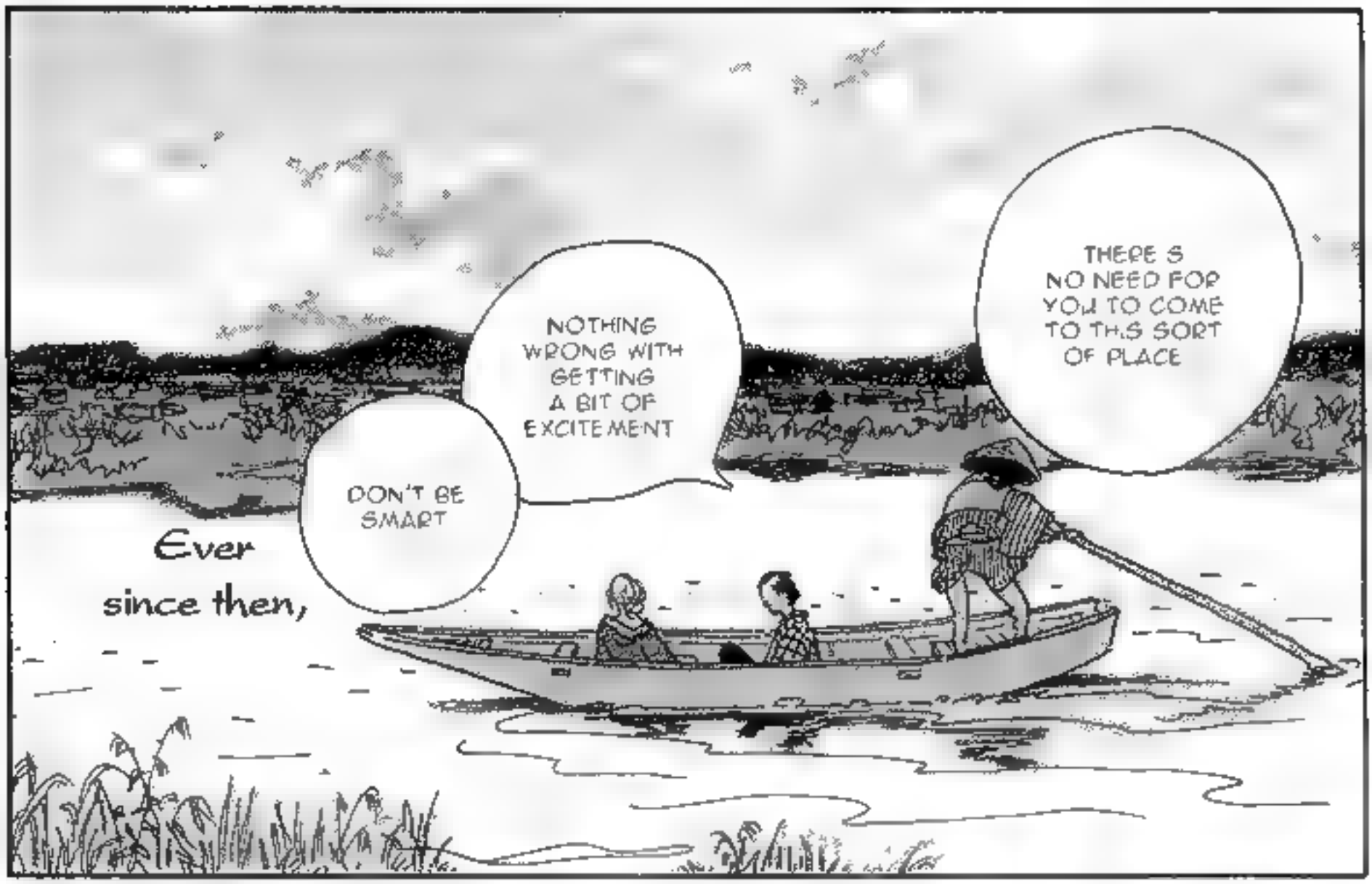
twist

.....

splash

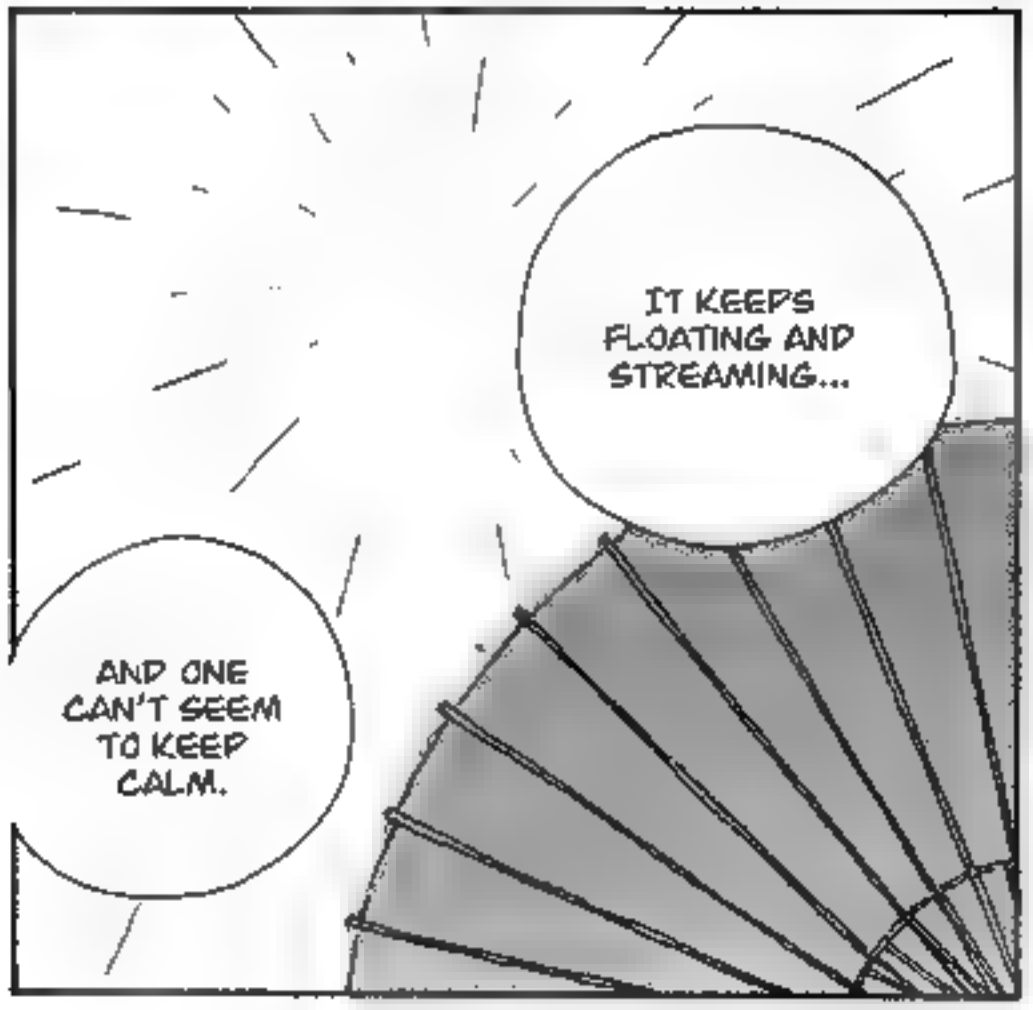
HOW ECCENTRIC FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG

YOUR REGULAR CUSTOMER


DON'T BE SMART
NOTHING WRONG WITH GETTING A BIT OF EXCITEMENT
THERE S NO NEED FOR YOU TO COME TO TH.S SORT OF PLACE
Ever since then,

to feed his goldfish.

the man would come every third day...



IT'S A LIVING HELL.

WHAT NOW?

BUT I DID LEARN ONE WAY OF DOING IT

NO.

THOUGHT SO.

HOW ABOUT COSMETICS?

OF COURSE

HAVE YOU EVER BOUND A WOMAN'S HAIR?

L KE A PR NCESS SOME DAY.

THEN MAKE ME UP

WOMEN'S HAIR

.. MUST BE ONE FRIGHTENING DRAGON PALACE.

YOU, AS A PRINCESS?

WHAT ARE YOU DO NG. ?

ARE SO SOFT

YOU'RE A STRANGE FELLOW.

DUNNO.

AHA HAHA

MY NAME IS SHINKICHI, AND HE S SOME-THING LIKE A BROTHER TO ME

SHOCK-ING.

WHERE DID KINKICHI COME FROM?

WHAT?

SEE YOU, KINKICHI.

IF I'M STILL ALIVE

I'LL COME AGAIN

.....

SHALL WE GO?

NOW THEN.

Pat Pat

MY GOOD-NESS!

THWACK

TCH!

THUD

HAVEN'T SEEN ME FOR A WHILE, AND YOU'VE ALREADY BECOME THIS STUBBORN?

SPLASH

HUH?

YOU FILTHY WHORE.

YOU LEFT THE BOAT W THOUT PAYING EXTRA.

BUT THAT GENTLEMAN ALWAYS PAYS TEN TIMES AS MUCH

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT

DON'T BE SO UNCOUTH

ONE SHOULDN'T NITPICK ON HOW OTHERS CHOOSE TO PLAY

HUFF.

DON'T GET YOURSELF IN TOO DEEP.

GURGLE

I WON'T SPEAK TO

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG AFTER ALL

YOU ROTTEN DEMON.

On top of this boat, men come to draw out many different things.

TAKE THIS.

WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING, EH?

What is it about me that he hates so much?

Not like there's anything in this life to regret.

YOU BITCH!

WHAT?!

Maybe I should just end it here.

SPLASH

Come to think of it,

then it's a cheap price to pay.

just by drinking muddy water,

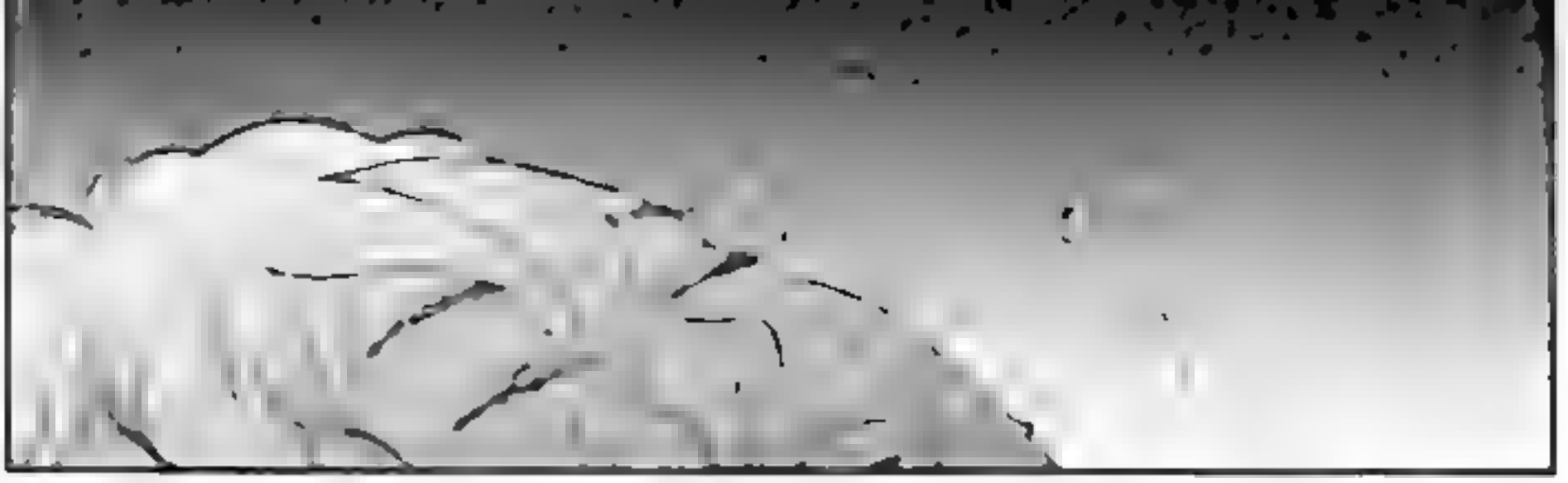
If I get to bid farewell to this life of prostitution

I'm sinking one way or the other.

.....

H.

HEY!



ORIN-SAN, YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO'S SHAKING
Now that you mention it...
YOU'RE

IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAND YOU OVER TO THAT ROTTEN BASTARD

WHAT?

IT'S THE SEASON FOR FLOWER VIEWING, ISN'T IT?

Shinkichi's tears are hot on my cheek.

IF ONLY I DIDN'T GET OFF THE BOAT ..

HMM, SORRY, SORRY, I SEEMED TO HAVE DROPPED THE "THING".

SPEAK CLEARLY

NO ONE WILL PAY ANY NOTICE.

EVEN IF IT'S INCONVENIENT TO LOSE ONE OR TWO OF THESE LOW-GRADE PROSTITUTES,

SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO BUY A REPLACEMENT, IS THERE?

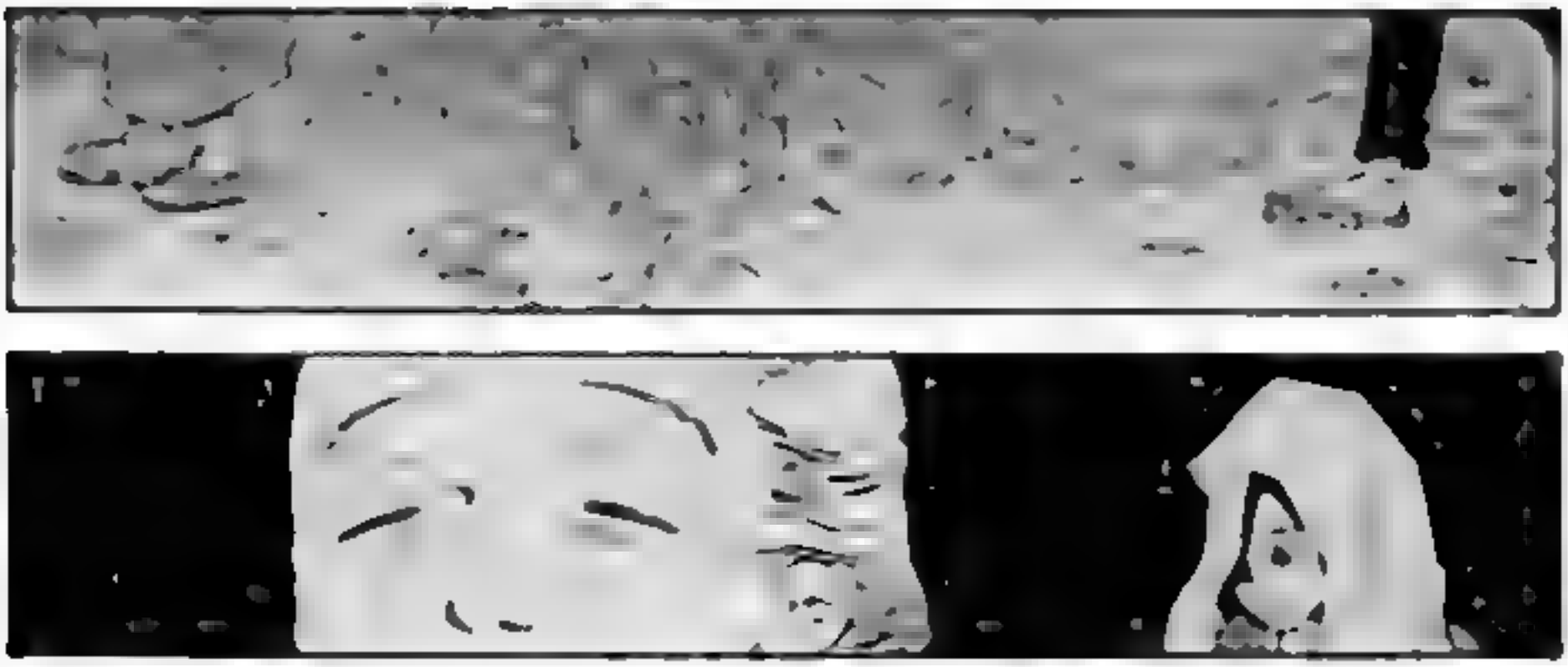
THE KID CAME TO FISH HER OUT RIGHT AWAY,

What is the point in covering my ears...

WE'LL RIDE YOUR BOAT,

AND VIEW THE BLOSSOMS,

IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.



rustle

I'VE PREPARED IT

WHERE'S MY EXTRA PAYMENT?

I'M HERE TODAY...

TO TURN YOU INTO A PRINCESS

?

swish

swish

swish

STAY AWAY FROM EDO FOR SOME TIME

I HAVE TO...

TO YOU

BUT I WILL DEFINITELY RETURN...

THE WIND

WHEN I DO...

MAKES IT HARD TO HEAR.

FOR THIS PLACE TO BE HELL.

IT SEEMS UNIMAGINABLE...

Hell is
right
here.

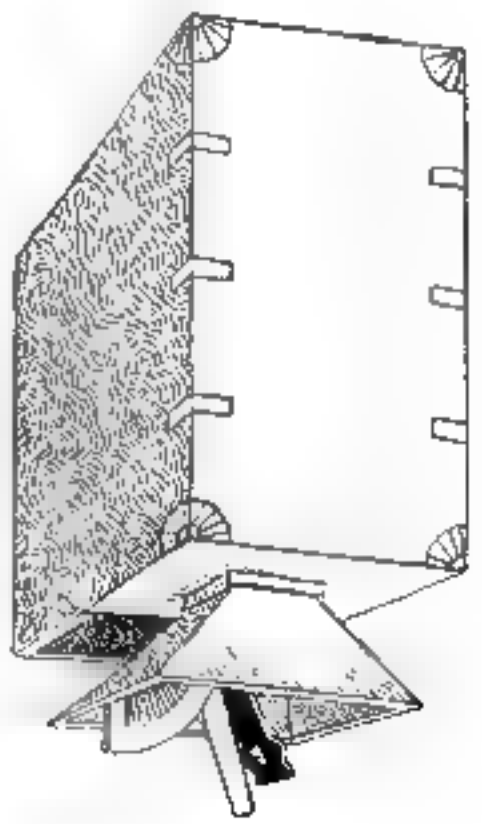
nor going
against
the flow
to get to
the opposite
shore,

Where
neither going
with the flow
to see the
ocean,

will be
granted.

KINKICHI

Chiruhi / END



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梅雨

Rainy season

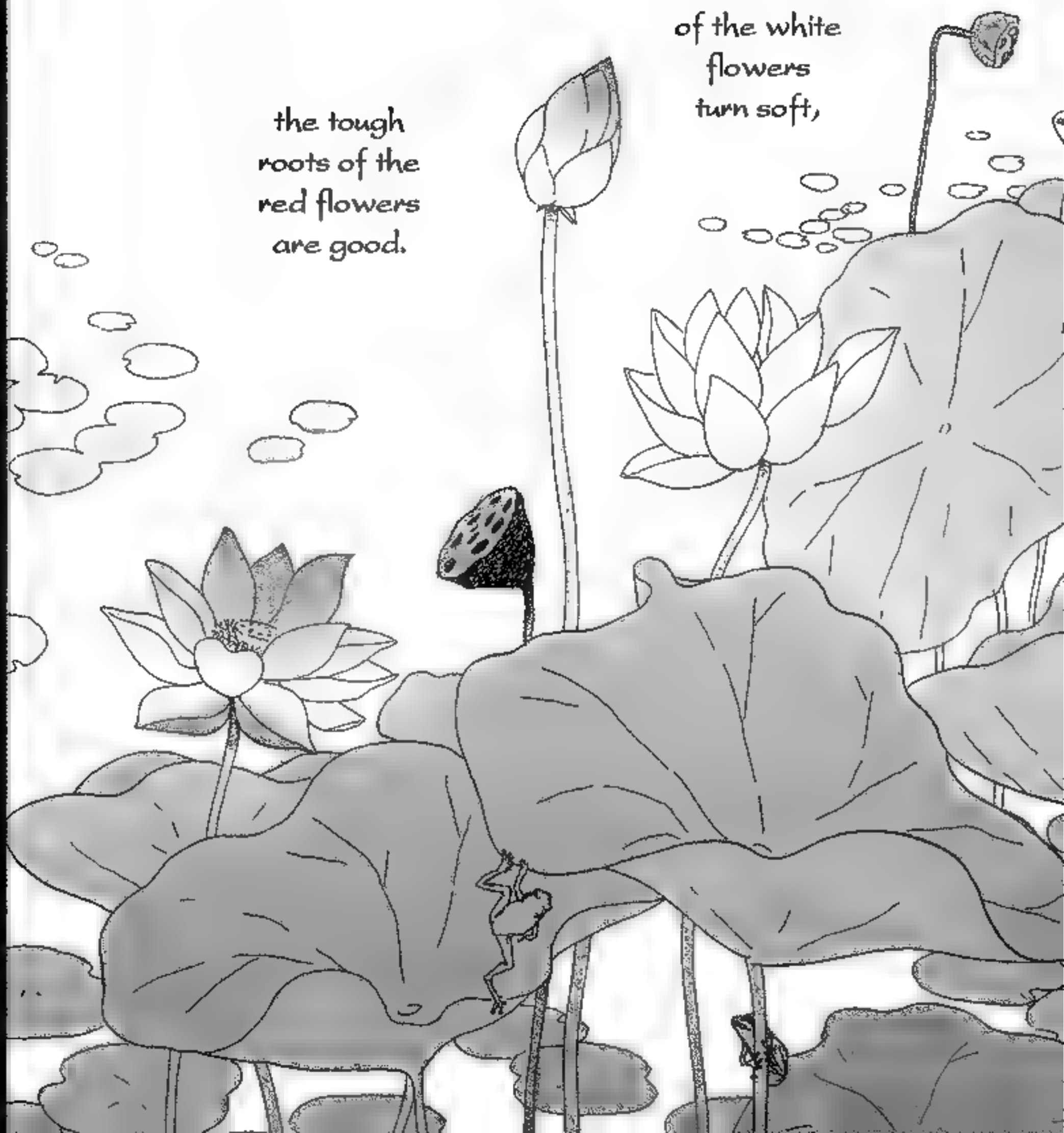
An innocent
flower that
makes a noise
unknown to man
when blooming.

I cradle it
while diving into
muddy waves.

Lotus Roots

When
the roots
of the white
flowers
turn soft,

the tough
roots of the
red flowers
are good.



THE ASAGAO AND HOOZUKI FESTIVALS ARE COMING SHORTLY

BECAUSE OF THE PEAK [redacted].

WHAT'S THAT...?

OI, OI, OI!

HUH?

ALRIGHT, I UNDER-

DON'T BOTCH THINGS UP, SENNOSUKE.

OR IS IT A KAPPA?*

IS THAT A PERSON WHO FAILED TO DROWN?

*T/N: A mythical water-dwelling creature

SHE'S QUITE...
BUT TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
MY GUESS WOULD BE A QUIET UNSOCIABLE PERSON

A GOOD-LOOK N' WOMAN, EH?

HMM.
WHO KNOWS? WHAT IF SHE'S A CAPRICIOUS RIVER OTTER?

CAN'T YOU?
IN THAT FIELD OF LOTUS ROOTS.
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I TAKE IT YOU HAD A CHANGE OF HEART?

YES.

A LITTLE WHILE AGO,

LOTUS ROOT HUNTING?

HUH

DEPENDING ON THE COLOR OF THE FLOWERS OF THE LOTUS ROOTS

THE FIRMNESS AND TASTE VARY

I HEARD FROM A MONK, WHOM I WAS INTIMATE WITH, THAT

BUT THESE DAYS, IT'S THE OPPOSITE

ARE PROOF OF THE ROOTS HAVING A STURDY UPBRINGING.

ISN'T THAT SOMETHING!

FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN A LOVELY RED

FOR SOME REASON, AFTER I HEARD THAT... I FELT A DESIRE TO

TAKE ALL THE FLOWERS SOAKED IN COLOR AND MUNCH MY WAY THROUGH THEM.

THEY SAY IT'S BETTER TO EAT THE UNDER-DEVELOPED PARTS OF THE WHITE FLOWER

BY THE WAY,

ARE YOU FELLAS

Where'd you get that idea?

IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER?

HOW ABOUT HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH ME?

IF YOU'RE NOT, THEN

GETS TO SPEND ALL NIGHT WITH ME?

HOW ABOUT, STARTING FROM NOW, WHOEVER BRINGS ME THE LARGEST AND MOST UNSAVORY-LOOKING LOTUS ROOT

YOU SAVED MY LIFE AFTER ALL.

SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

OF COURSE.

I'LL HOLD ONTO YOUR MONEY

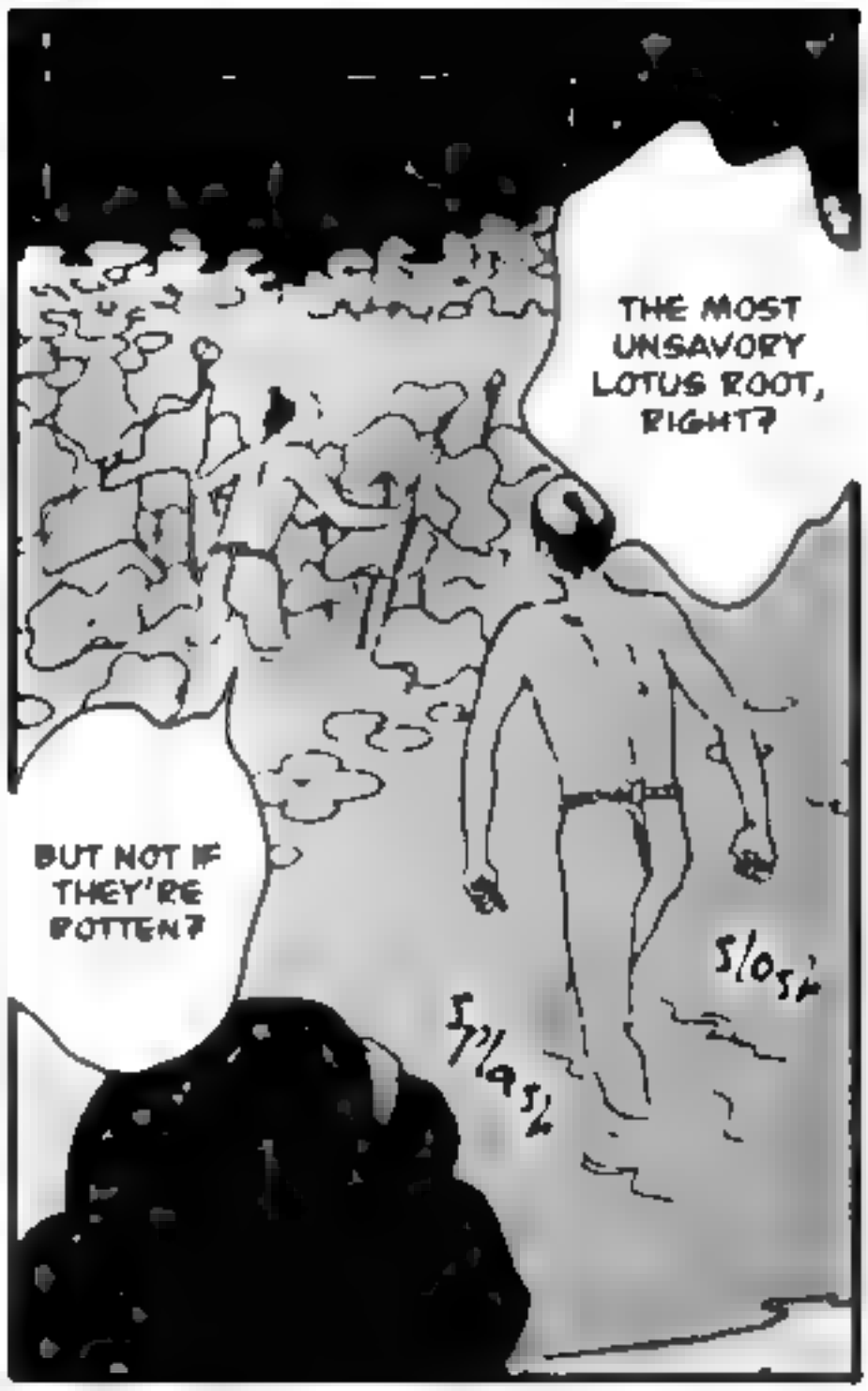
AND THE SOBA FROM HERE TOO?

ALRIGHT, ALREADY!

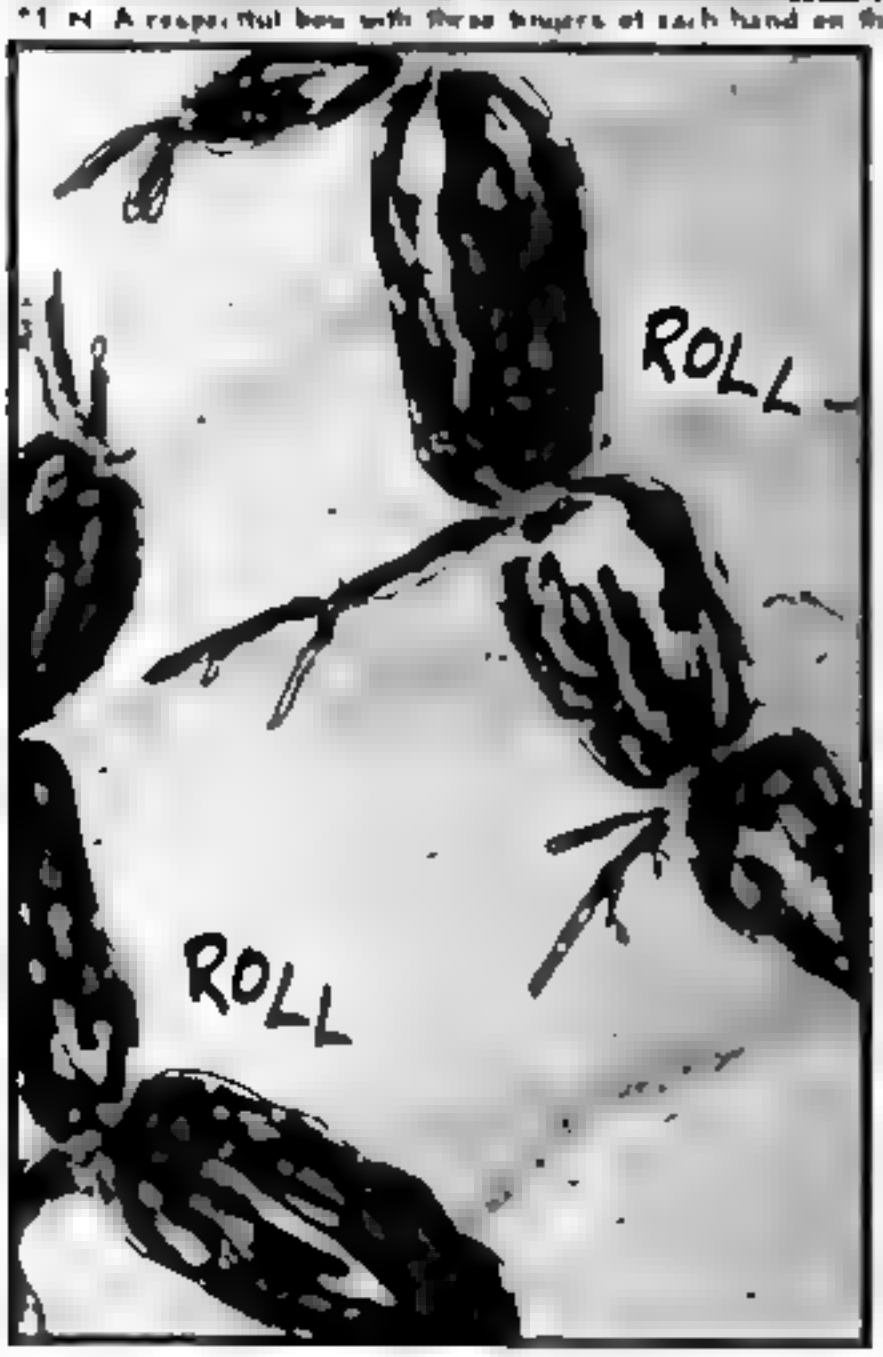
flap

DAMMIT!

SO YOU HATE STORIES THAT SOUND TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?



*1 N. A respectful bow with three fingers of each hand on the floor



NONE OF THESE WILL DO.

HMM,

HIGHWAY ROBBERY?!

THAT BITCH!

BWAHAHA!

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE, THEN I'D GO WITH THE ONE FROM THE MISTER ON THE RIGHT

BUT I CAN'T TAKE THESE

EVEN IF THEY'RE BOILED OR COOKED, THEY'LL JUST BE HOLLOW AND DRY

WE STILL WENT ALONG KNOWING THAT WE COULD HAVE BEEN TRICKED

THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ANGRY ABOUT, IS THERE?

FALLING FOR A STORY LIKE THAT MEANS YOU FELLAS NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE CAUTION.

EUGHH!

DISGUSTING SCUM!

WE WERE HOPING THAT WOULDN'T BE THE CASE!

NEXT TIME I MEET THAT WOMAN, I'M NOT LETTIN' HER GET AWAY

THE MOONLIGHT AND THE LIGHTS FROM THE TEAHOUSES SICKEN ME.

BY THE WAY, YOUNG FELLA,

INSIDE YOUR KIMONO,

OH, MY.

THAT'S QUITE DISTURBING.

I FOUND "SOMETHING" VERY FAMILIAR.

WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHY?

ARE YOU IN THE SAME TRADE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IF YOU LIKE IT, YOU CAN KEEP IT.

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.

SENNOSUKE?!

When did you steal it?

COME ON! DON'T STAND THERE DUMB-FOUNDED

I PROMISED TO KEEP YOU COMPANY, REMEMBER?

BRING US SOME WINE.

GOT IT.

I TOLDJA NOT TO BOTCH THINGS UP!

OW!

BONK

CLEAN YOUR FACES.

MAKE A FRESH START.

"SAY TONOK CHI,"

SOMEHOW, MY MIND IS CLEAR.

SIGHT-SEEING CHARGES.

.....

SORRY

DON'T HOLD BACK.

SAY, TONOKICHI?

THAT'S A GREAT DISCOVERY

ONCE THE FOURTH DAY PASSES IT BURSTS

ALL OF THEIR FLOWERS DO THAT

OPEN AND CLOSE OPEN AND CLOSE

OPEN AND CLOSE AND THEN SUDDENLY BURST?

LOOKING AT THIS POND EVERYDAY HAS MADE ME REALIZE SOMETHING

DID YOU KNOW THAT LOTUSES

TONOKICHI YOU CAME FROM KAMAGATA A LONG TIME AGO DIDN'T YOU?

GREAT-GRANDFATHER TOLD ME THAT I'LL BE GOING TO KAMAGATA WHEN I GROW UP

SO WHEN I GO TO KAMAGATA WILL YOU BE COMING WITH ME?

WE ALL HAVE OUR SEPARATE DESTINIES THAT MUST BE CARRIED OUT

SHIZU-SAMA YOU WILL BE GOING TO A TEMPLE IN THE CAPITOL TO BECOME SOMEONE'S LOVELY WIFE

I HAVE OTHER PROMISED DUTIES IN EDO

WAIT, I DON'T HAVE MY PURSE.

OH, REALLY? BUT I'M THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU. HMM

IT'S MY TREAT, MISS.

I HAVEN'T BEEN WITH A WOMAN YET

WELL, THAT'S OBVIOUS.

BY THE WAY, WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE WITH A WOMAN?

YOU'RE TALKING ALL OVER THE PLACE.

ARE YOU DRUNK?

WHEN A LOTUS BLOOMS AND SCATTERS ITS SEEDS THRICE

IT WILL SERVE AS A REMINDER FOR US OF THAT TIME

IS THAT AN INVITATION?

SHE'S LOOKING DOWN ON YOU

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO LICK YOU?

HAS IT BETTER THAN THE ONE BEING THRUSTED INTO.

I SUPPOSE, THE ONE DOING THE THRUSTING

*T/N The Japanese words for "looking down on (someone)" and "licking" sound similar

WHAT ARE YOU GO NG TO DO WITH THAT

FILTHY LOTUS ROOT?

SAY, OTOHA-SAN?

CAUTIOUSLY, EH...?

I'M GOING TO EAT IT CAUTIOUSLY.

TONO IS LEAVING HIS ROLE AS CARETAKER?!

THE TIME HAS COME SHIZU-SAMA

HII SAMA, WHY?!

SLAM

TONO?

ANY MORE OF THIS WILL ONLY BRING ME PAIN TO BE NEAR YOU

It was the same no matter where I went.

I was confined from the start.

I ran away.

And that is how

I wanted to leave.

So while I was convinced of that,

To the false
Pure Land.

that was gentle.

impure as J was,

there was only one thing

Inside this worldly temple,

WELL, IT'S NOT SO BAD.

IT'S LIKE WALK NG IN BLACK GLUTINOUS RICE.

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE

TO BE IN ALL THAT MUD?

HEY,

HMM?

I CAN LEND YOU MY RUMP.

HAVING TO KEEP COMPANY WITH ALL THOSE CLINGY PIGHEADED MONKS

MUST BE PRETTY DIFFICULT.

YOU'RE A KAGEMA*, AREN'T YOU?

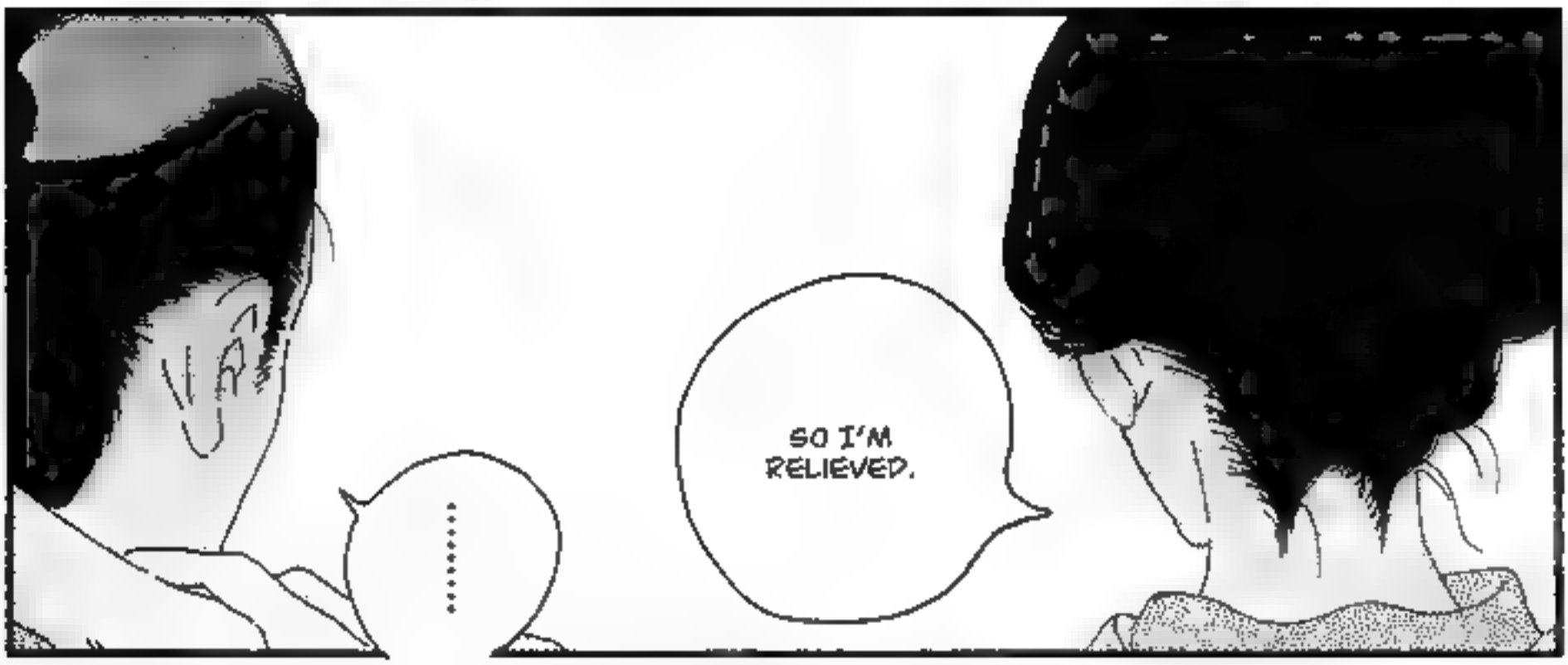
*T/N Professional homosexual

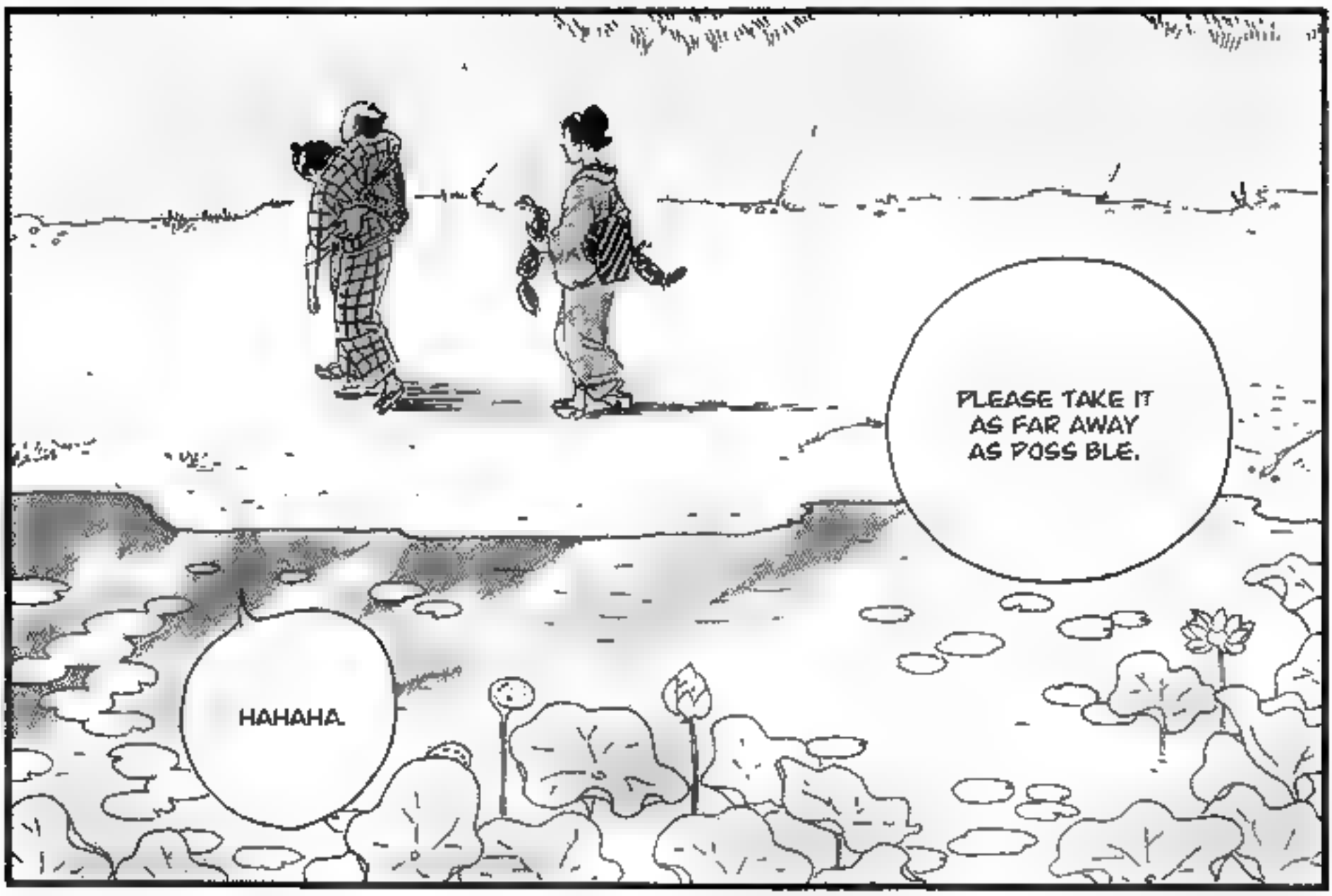
THERE'S VIRTUALLY NO SYMPATHY FOR THE VAGABOND

THAT HANDBAG IN YOUR BREAST POCKET NOW...

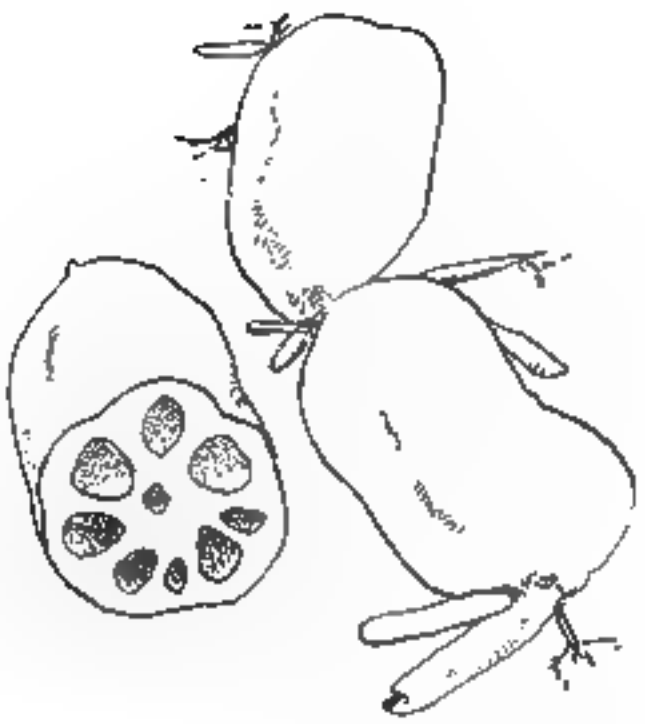
LET'S JUST CALL THIS A MEETING OF LIKE MINDS.

WHEN THE FESTIVAL IS OVER, WE'LL BE LEAVING EDO AS WELL





Lotus Roots / END



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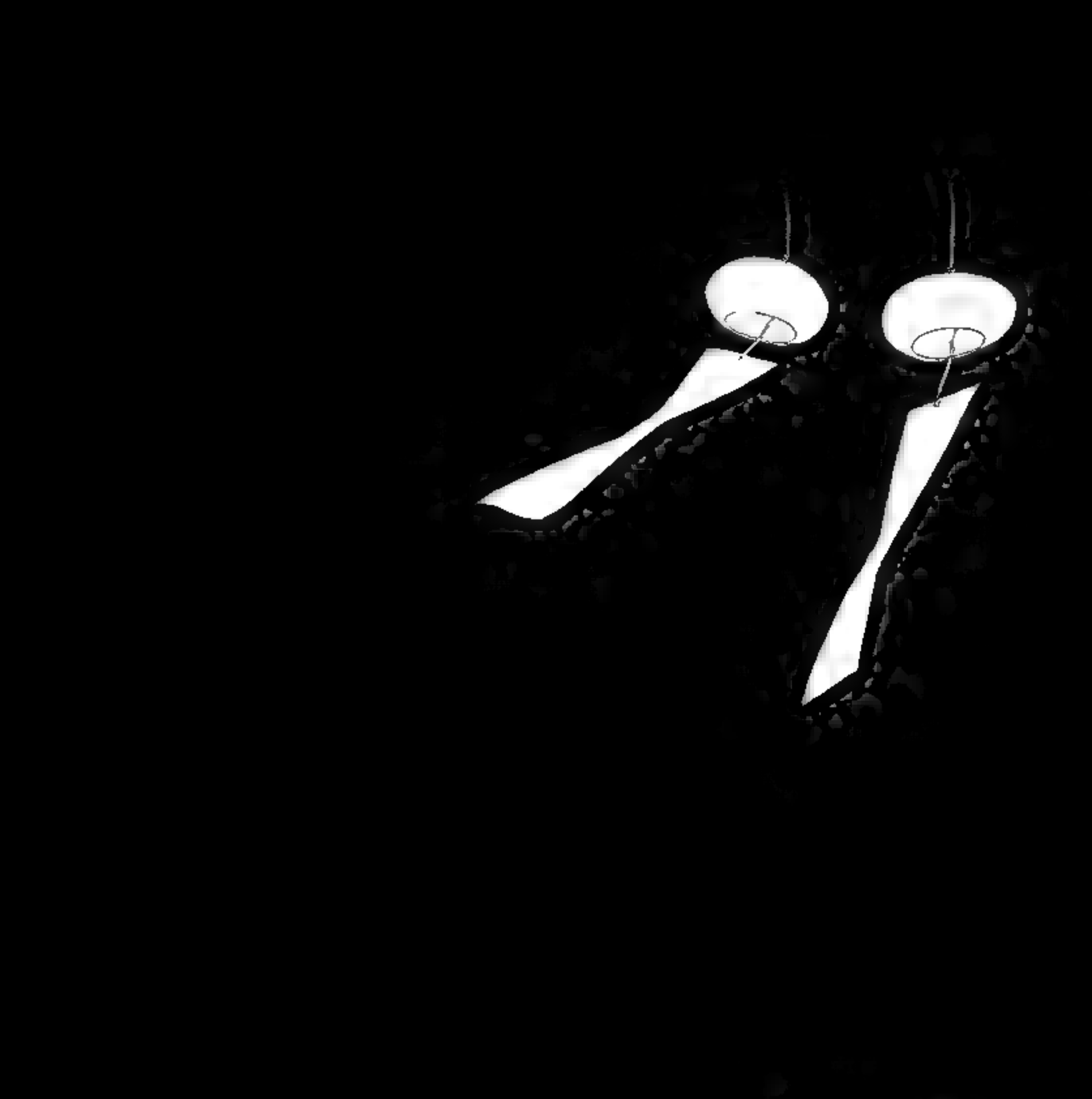

夏
Summer

RUMBLE
RUMBLE...

One Night Princess

PLOP

HSSSSS

HHHHHH

WAIT, SIR!

ZSHHHHHH

IT WILL LET UP SHORTLY.

WHY DON'T YOU COME UP?

UNTIL THEN,

WEAR THESE UNTIL YOUR CLOTHES DRY.

ZSHHHHH

NOW COME A LITTLE CLOSER,
AND I SHALL TELL YOU AN UNUSUAL STORY.

THEN IT'S LIKELY THAT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO START THE HYAKU-MONOGATARI?*

IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?

*T/N: round of ghost stories (traditionally told at night with a lamp or candle being extinguished after each story)

YOU'RE A GOOD-LOOKING MAN,

SO IT'S BEST TO BE CAREFUL.

THEY "HAUNT" THIS PLACE.

.....

THE GHOSTS OF PROSTI-TUTES.

HEHE

THE VIEW OF THE RIVER-BANK ISN'T SO BAD.

Chig

RATHER CHARMING, EH?

IF YOU LOOK AT IT THIS WAY,

THEY'LL BE SHOOTING FIREWORKS SHORTLY

BUT I HAVE TO GO. OVERSTAYING IS TABOO.

HEHE

HOW FRIGHTEN-ING.

GOODNESS! YOU WERE JUST WAITING TO LEAVE?

WELL, IT STOPPED RAINING.

I SHOULD GO.

CHOUZU.*

WELL, THEN.

OYA?

SO YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING?

*T/N: water for washing or moistening one's hands

KTUMP

HMPH.

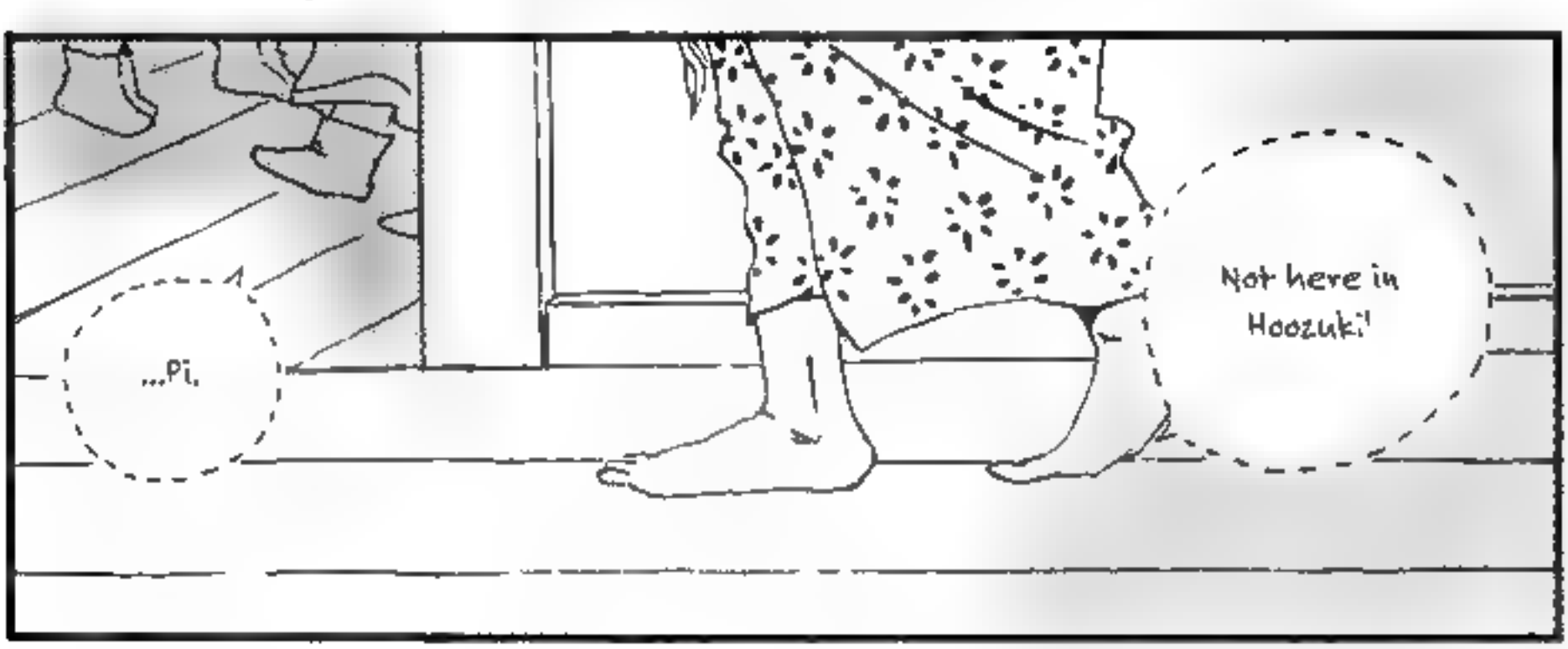
IF YOU SEE ANYTHING,

PROMISE NOT TO TELL A SOUL?

Jiggle
Jiggle
Jiggle
Creak
Creak

He walked out.
Shh!

Piiiii
Dummy!
Creak


...Pi.
Not here in Hoozuki!

Heh

AREN'T YOU A BIT YOUNG TO BE THE SPIRITS OF COURTESANS?

Hoo~ We're vengeful spirits.

tap tap tap

Farewell!

HEEEY.

DID THE LADY ASK YOU TO DO THIS TO SET ME UP?

OR ARE YOU ZASHIKI-WARASH ?*

*T/N protective household deity in Tohoku appearing as a red faced child spirit with bobbed hair

MET WITH YOUR FAVORITE PROSTITUTE?

WHAT? THEN I WILL HAVE TO COMFORT YOU.

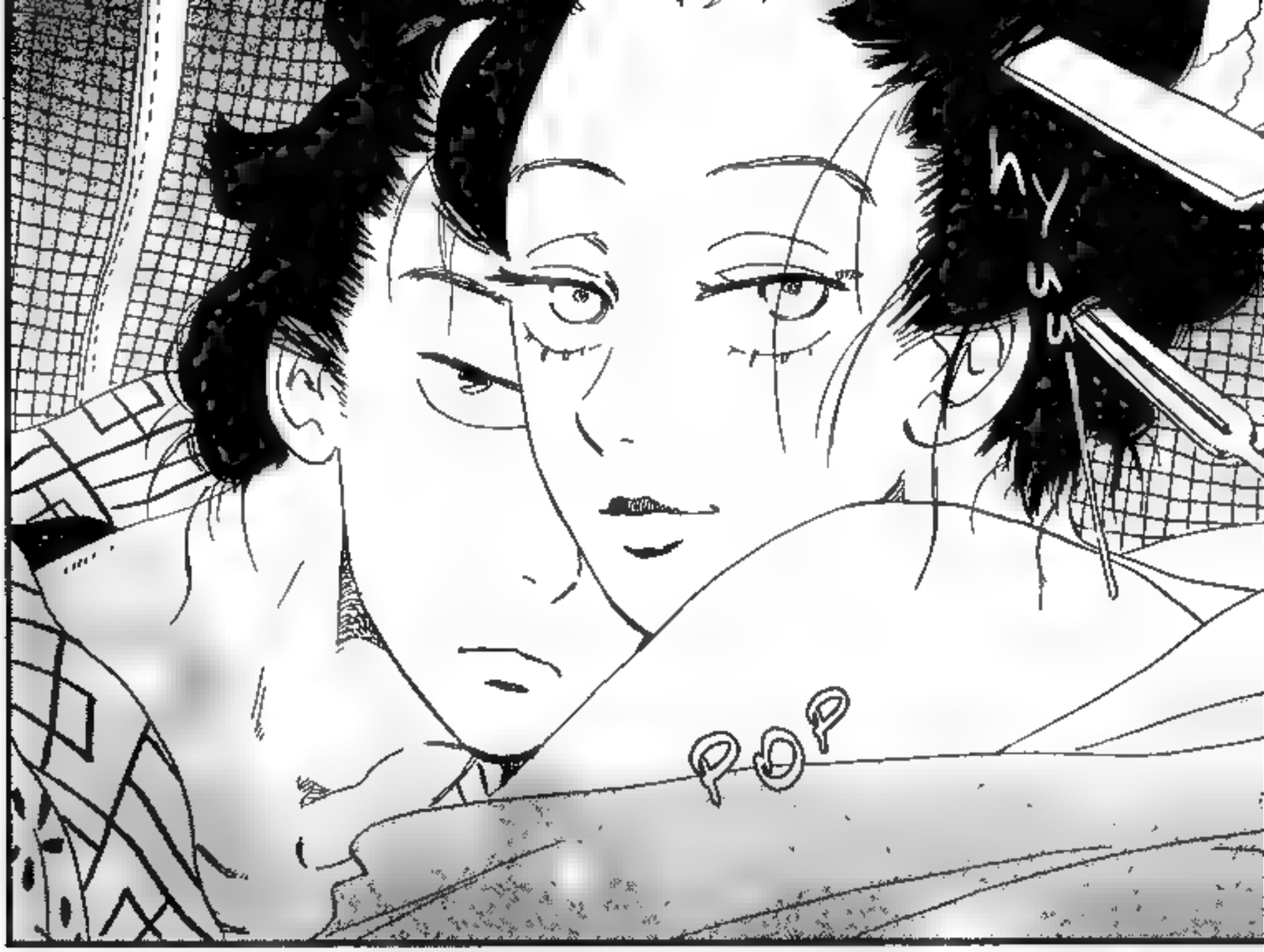
I WAS HARSHLY REJECTED.

IT'S NICE TO BE YOUNG. GIRLS ARE AT THEIR BEST AT THAT AGE.

SUCH A TERRIBLY LOUD MOUTH.

I'M GOING TO SHUT IT UP.

Crack
Boom
Boom
Boom
Boom


hyuu
POP

DO
SH
NOISY!
YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN IT'S LIVELY?

I LIKE TALKING.

IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

THE NIGHT BLOSSOM CAN'T SEEM TO HOLD HER TONGUE.

I WANT THIS RENDEZVOUS TONIGHT

SEARED INTO MY MEMORY

Jiggle

Jiggle

Jiggle

Jiggle

COME.

WHILE THE MISTER IS SLEEPING,

GIRLS!

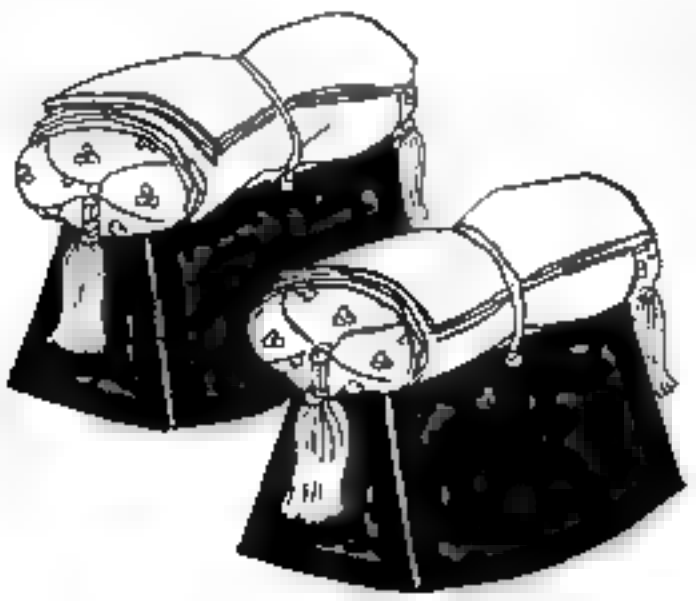
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO.

*T/N a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors

THIS YEAR I'LL TAKE YOU ONCE MORE.

THE OBON* WILL START SHORTLY.

One Night Princess / END



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秋

Autumn

Where
am I?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

I'VE NEVER
SEEN YOU
BEFORE.

KIKU!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

Tenkiku

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE'RE GOING HOME!
THERE'S A DANMARI* HERE...!
...I'M TENNOSHIN.
WOOO

I THINK HE'S LOST.

PANMARI?

SNAP

Rustle

WHERE'S THE LOST CHILD?

HE WAS STANDING REALLY STILL.

.....

I'M SURE THERE WAS A CH LD JUST NOW THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

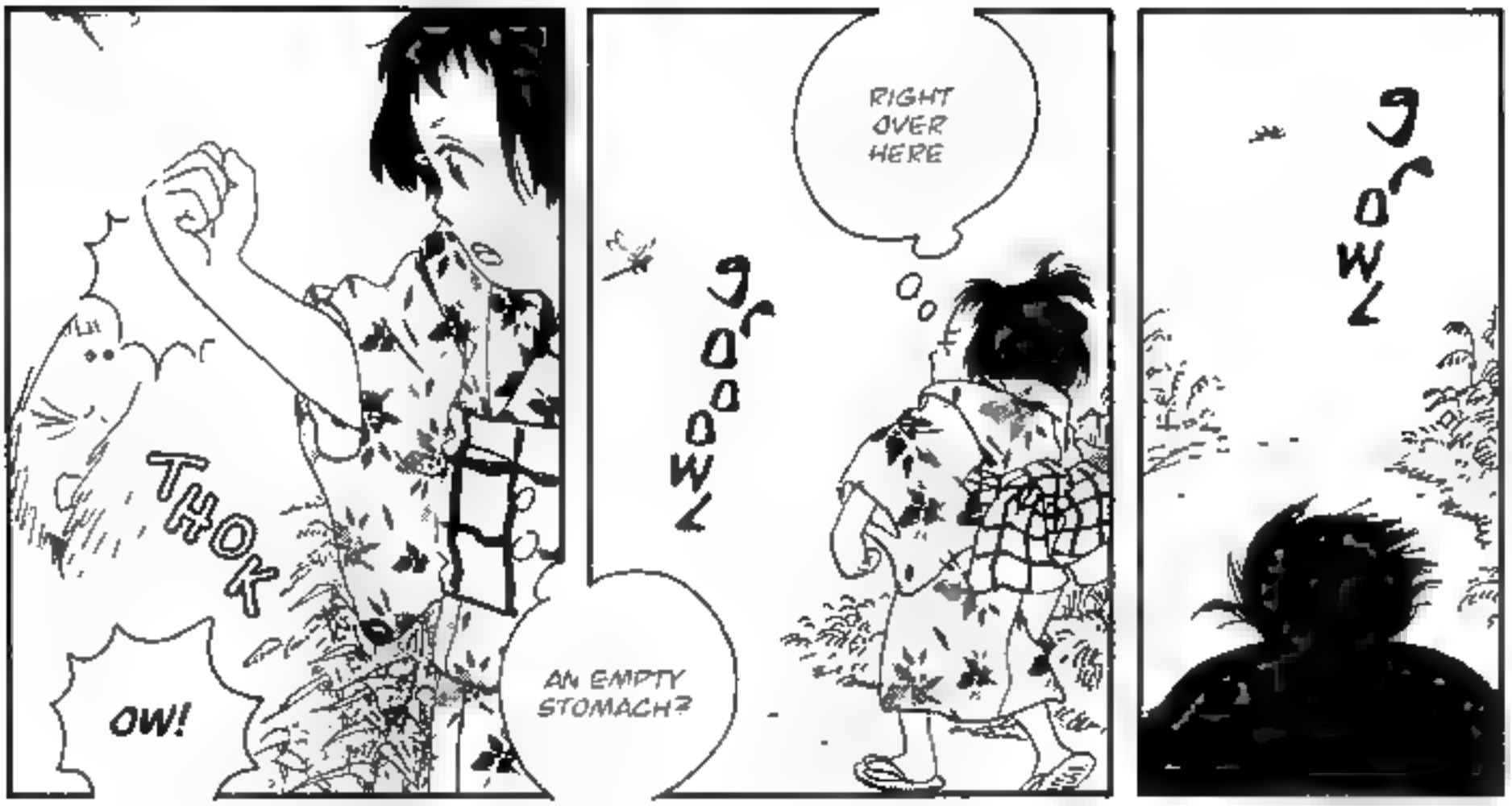
HOOT

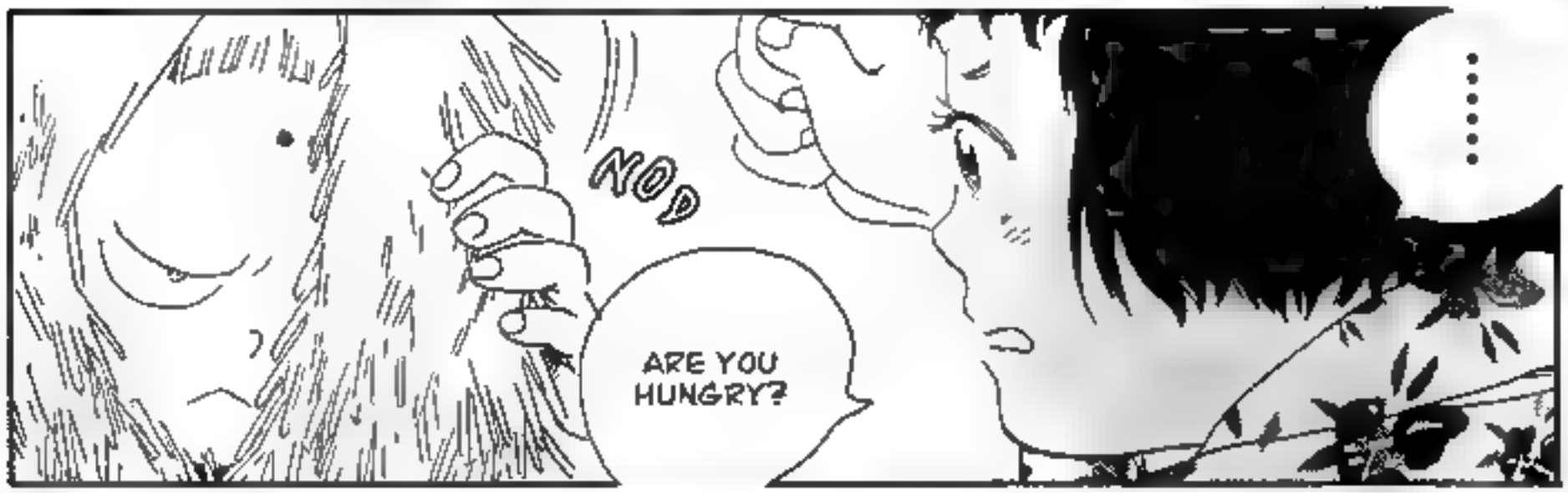
Rustle

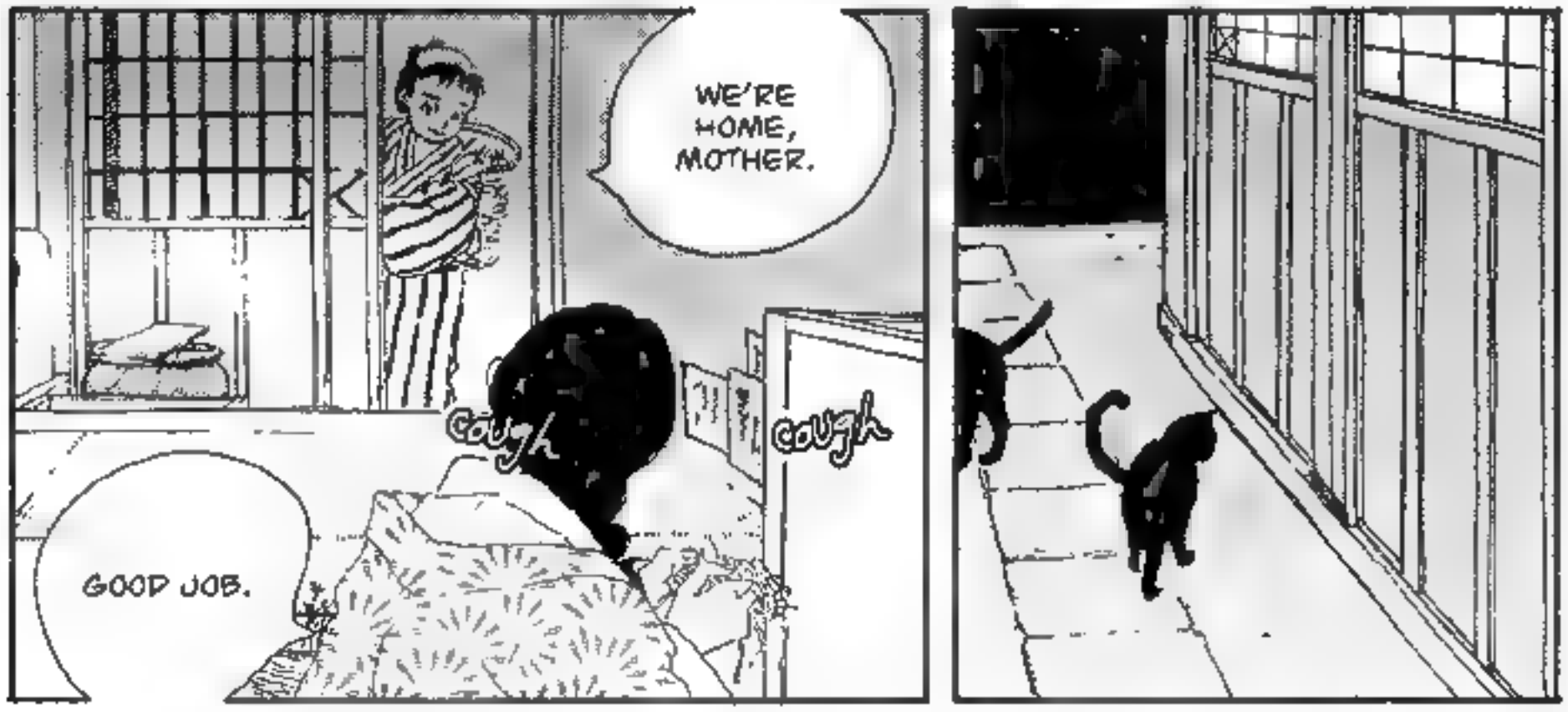
DID YOU GET FOOLED BY A RACCOON...?

HM?!

WHAT?


THOK
OW!
AN EMPTY STOMACH?
GOOOM
RIGHT OVER HERE
GOWL


NOD
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
.....


WE'RE HOME, MOTHER.
cough
cough
GOOD JOB.

IN THIS DIM LIGHT?

BUT SHE'S GOING TO THE TOILET BY HERSELF

NOT SURE WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER,

HM? WHERE'S KIKU?

Alright.

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALWAYS ON THE VERGE OF TEARS.

KTUMP

rAttle rAttle

THAT'S MY HOUSE

THAT WAS MY ELDER BROTHER AND MOTHER

NOD

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED

YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR MINO* NOW, TEN-CHAN.

*T/N: Straw raincoat

I'M GRATEFUL.

YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL YOU REMEMBER THE WAY HOME,

GOT IT?

WHAT'S WRONG, KIKU?

YOU KEEP LOOKING AROUND...

IT'S FINE.

WE HELP EACH OTHER OUT WHEN WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

.....

munch munch munch

CHOMP

WHERE? WHERE?

DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE A CAT'S FACE...?

THAT STAIN ON THE WALL NEXT TO THE CALENDAR,

big

burp

BURP? HEHEHE.

SEE?

WELL, I THINK I CAN SEE IT.

HMM?

he he

MM?!

crunch

crunch

EXTRAS.

YOU'RE EATING A LOT TODAY.

crunch

toss

COME AND SLEEP ALREADY.

OKAY

whisper whisper

Hene.

SHE'S ACTING STRANGE TODAY

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING FUN.

Cough

Are you sure you don't need to sleep in a futon?

Then

I can't

This mino is dirty.

see you tomorrow.

Okay.

If you make any noise, we'll get busted,

SHAKE

so when you need me for something,

That's right.

FINE, I WILL.

Leave me alone, will you?

Screech

just tug on this to let me know.

IS THAT SOME KIND OF LUCKY CHARM?

KIDS DO STRANGE TH NGS.

HEHE

FAT-TLE

Coming.

BRING ME SOME WATER.

MORNING, KIKU-CHAN.

MORNING!

IT'S HEAVY, SO BE CAREFUL.

slosh slush

I'LL BE FINE.

chirp

chirp

Cockle doodle

HOW WAS THE TSUKUDANI?*

YES, IT WAS DELICIOUS.

*T/N: preserved food boiled in soy

So bright.

slosh

OH, MY.

I'M FINE.

DON'T FALL DOWN!

slosh

slush

WAH

EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED.

YOU'RE VERY STRONG.

Heh, heh, heh.

YOU MEAN, SPIRITED AWAY?!

THAT'S RIGHT.

I AM SURE THEY WILL BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED IF I CARRY YOU AWAY, KIKU-DONO.

Whaaat?

WILL YOU COME WITH ME?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET BACK?

NOD

SHEESH.

DON'T YOU KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG?

WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH LUNCH, WE'LL GO AND PLAY

DON'T TALK SILLY

HA!

YOU'RE LOST RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU?

.....

I'M SICK OF DOING SUMO.

LET'S CATCH DRAGON-FLIES.

grind

GECKO AND

WHAT ARE YOU CHOPPING UP, TEN?

Chop, chop, chop ROOTS

grind grind grind

THAT'S A STRANGE RECIPE!

A DRAGON'S BEARD

AND CHRYSAN-THEMUM PETALS

grind

grind grind

AH.

bwoo sh

Wow

IT'S SO H GH.

drip

THEN GET ME THAT KITE.

NEVER MIND, JUST TAKE IT

IF YOU WANT TO GIVE ME SOMETHING,

MM!

WHAT?

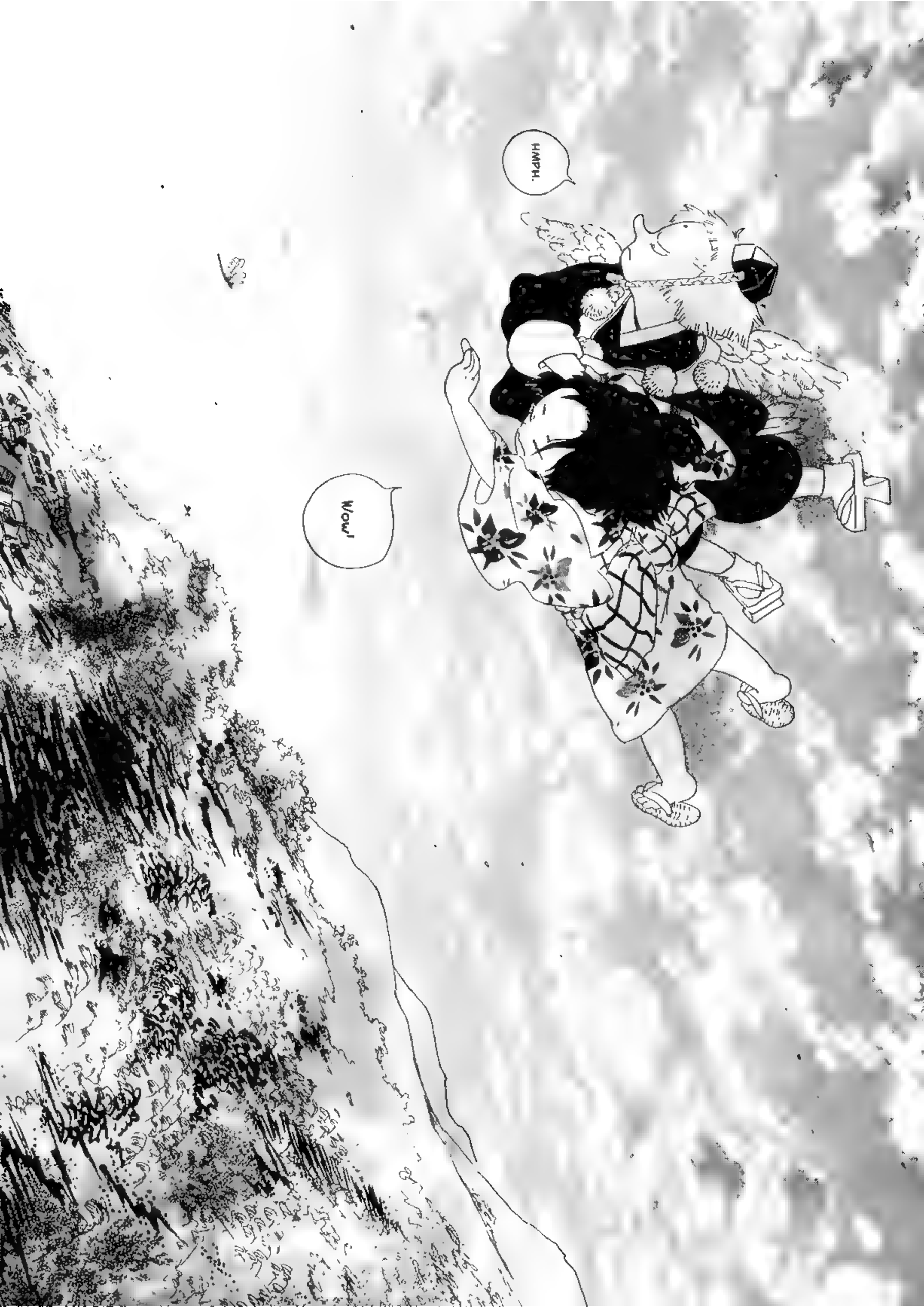
A KITE!

SWOOSH

DON'T LAUGH!

Kyahaha

WON'T DO IT!


HMPH.
Wow!

flap

rustle

flap

flap

flap

YOUNG MASTER.

FINALLY, WE'VE FOUND YOU.

rustle

IT'S TRULY DREADFUL!

HIS FATHER HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SWALLOW A SINGLE THING SINCE LAST NIGHT.

GOODNESS, HOW SHOULD WE THANK YOU?

.....

SO WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE THE SUN SETS....

DON'T CRY IT'S UNSIGHTLY.

YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING YOURSELF TO CONCEAL YOUR BODY, WEREN'T YOU?

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS SAFETY!!

SOBBB

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.

WE HAVE NIGHT-BLINDNESS,

AH TENNOSH N-SAMA,

What's going on?

THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.

FLAP

.....

FLAP

That was too quick.

FLAP

FLAP

BE WELL.

Even
though

we must
become
friends!

Wa
A
A
A
H
Ngh~~
Wa
A
A
A
H
Wa
A
A
A
H
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.
THE PACKAGE I GAVE YOU IS AN ANCIENT CURE-ALL FROM MY VILLAGE.
TELL YOUR MOTHER TO DR NK IT.

SO THAT, AND THIS EBOSHI.*

*T/N: black-lacquered headgear (made of silk, cloth or paper) originally worn by court nobles in ancient Japan

I'LL LET YOU BORROW IT.

UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.

Z

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冬

Winter

CLATTER

THUD

splash

IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE,

I'M DISGUSTED WITH YOU.

THEN HURRY UP AND GET LOST.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE WINE WAS WHAT MADE YOU

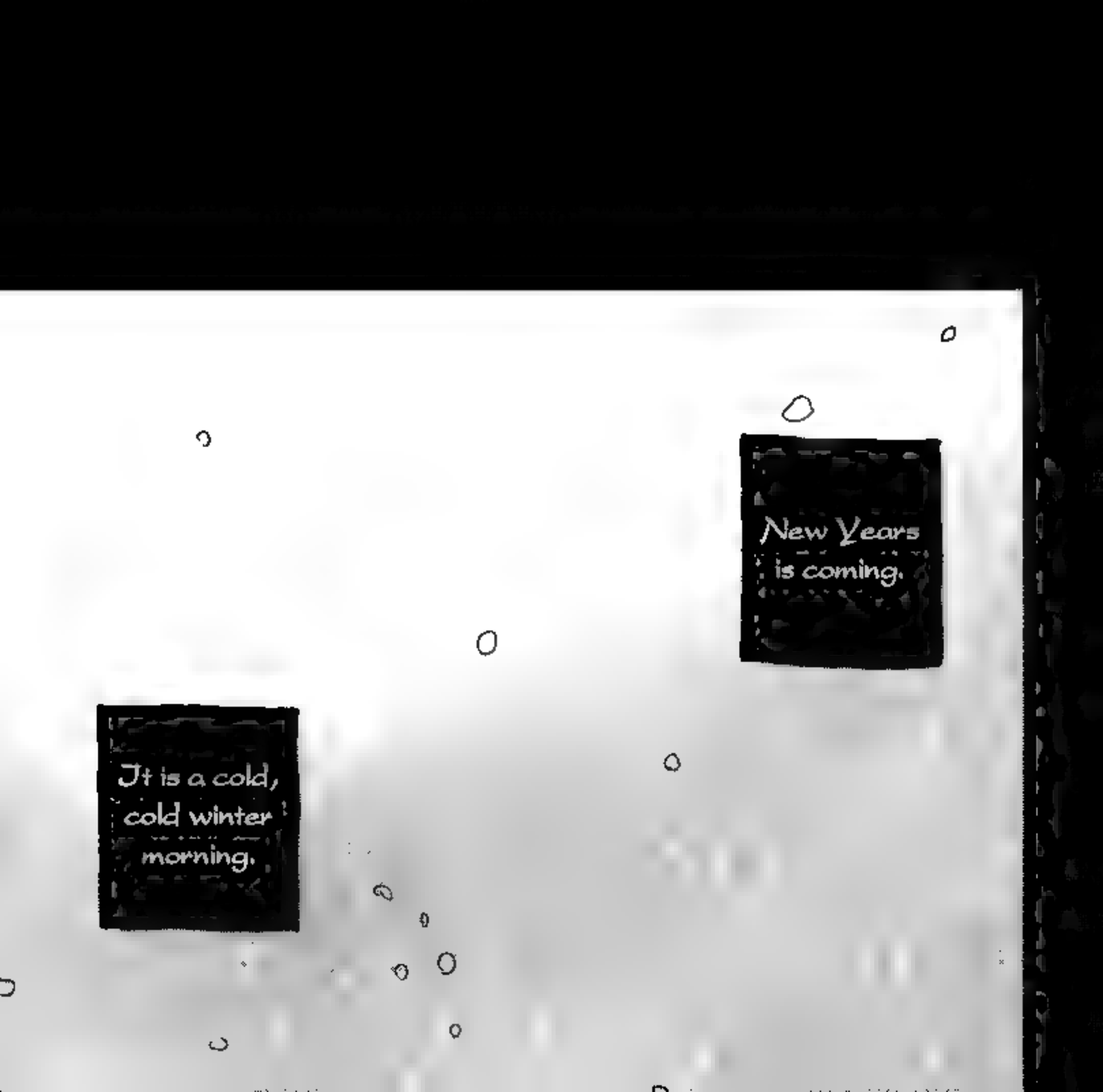
SO HOPELESS,

.....

BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

IT WAS PROBABLY ME

Breaking Under the Weight of Snow



YOU THINK I'M GOING TO CHASE AFTER YOU?

She won't go anywhere fun.

WELL, GO WHEREVER THE HELL YOU WANT!

I know where she'll be.

YOU'LL COME CRAWLING BACK SOON...

SMASH

.....

...OUCH.

Since when?

IF SHE NEVER CAME BACK.

IT'D BE BETTER

I saw her smiling face?

When was the last time

SO LONG AGO, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER...

See?
I told
you.

SHE'S BACK
SO QUICKLY

OOO

KTUNK

OH,
IT'S YOU.

MEOW

YOUR MASTER
ISN'T BACK
YET

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GOING TO STOP ANYTIME SOON

Fattle

LET ME SEE.

THE MOCHI OUR LANDLADY DELIVERED.

THEY'RE SPOILED NOW, AREN'T THEY?

Fattle

meow

meow

WA T,
DEAR

HAVE YOU SEEN
THE KANZASH*
THAT I LEFT HERE?

AH?

*T/N: Ornate hairpin

DON'T
TELL ME

YOU
TOOK IT OUT
TO PAWN?

SLOSH

...

DON'T BE
SO WHINY!

I WENT THROUGH
ALL THE TROUBLE
TO TAKE T THERE SO
WE COULD ENTER
THE NEW YEAR

HOW
COULD
YOU.?

YOU NO LONGER HAVE

ANY NEED FOR SUCH A FANCY KANZASH

NOW THAT'S SAT SFACT ON

Hic

AT THE PAWNSHOP I CAN GO TO SOME GIRL WHO SUITS IT BETTER

SIGH

IT'S NOT FOR THE NEW YEARS'

YOU DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL, DO YOU?

.....

IT'S JUST GOING TO END UP AS YOUR USELESS DRINKING MONEY!

rub

MAKING SUCH AN IRRITATING FACE!

.....

CLUNK

SMASH

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T REMEMBER!

GULP

GULP

GULP

GULP

slice

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO REMEMBER?!

is her looking mad or crying.

Achoo.

The only thing I can remember

scrub scrub scritch scritch

*T/N: Every December, there is a custom that when oil is spilled, the person who spilled it becomes cursed with fires and must have water poured on them.

SHIWASU OIL*, EH?

You'll be cursed with fires!

scrub

scrub

WELL THEN.

splash

Goodness, this child!

AHH!

How many times have I told you not to play near the lanterns?

WHERE DID SHE SPEND THE NIGHT?

ORAKI-CHAN?

crunch

crunch

rattle

IF SHE'S NOT AT THE LANDLADY'S, THEN

crunch

crunch

!.....

NOPE. HAVEN'T SEEN HER.

Sign PAWN

haa haa

haa

I'M RATHER

crunch

crunch

clench

PESKY MYSELF.

Cattle

.....

Did she come home?

AH.

thud

thud

thud

No.

are her belongings.

The only things that are missing

...I SEE.

crunch

I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS YOU STAY HEALTHY

WHEN SPRING COMES YOU CAN WORK AND GET IT BACK FOR ME

I'M SORRY, ORAKI.

YOUR WEDDING SET

crunch

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAD TO PAWN IT JUST TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT INTO THE NEW YEAR

crunch

IF WE CAN ENTER THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

HMM.

REALLY?

I CAN'T JUST LET IT GO

WE... THEN,

IF POSSIBLE, CAN YOU SPARE ME THIS KANZASH?

Ahh,

so that was it.

WHY THAT AGAIN?

HEHE

YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

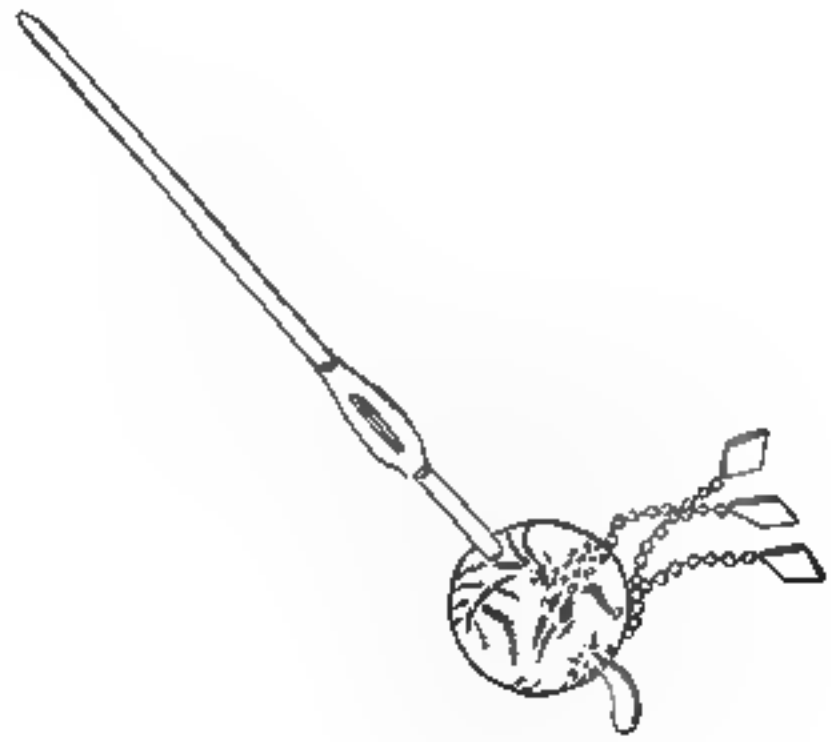
WHEN WE FIRST MET,

YOU TOLD ME I WAS BEAUTIFUL

IT'S TO CELEBRATE THAT MOMENT

...I REMEMBER THERE WAS

A TIME LIKE THAT.



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陽春

Spring time

Sakuhi

Day of Blooming

tweet

chirp

chirp

IT'S IN FULL BLOOM.

SO WARM

DON'T JUST STAND THERE IN A DAZE.

HURRY UP AND CLEAN THAT MESS UP

GOING

EVEN ON THESE PARTS,

AHH.

LET ME REST FOR A B T.

SURE THING.

I'M RETURNING THERE.

NO.

YOU'RE SELLING N EDO?

IT'S THE SEASON FOR CHERRY BLOSSOMS AFTER ALL.

WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH..

HMM?

thud

WHAT'S WRONG?!

HEY, THERE!

COME, QUICK!

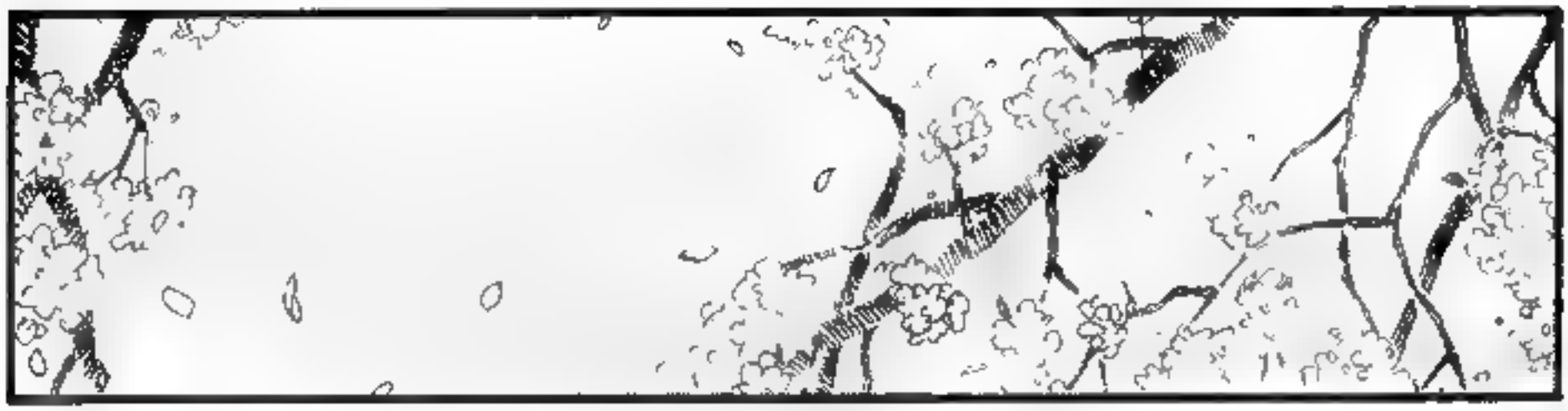
FAAATHER? SOMEONE FAINTED!

WATER

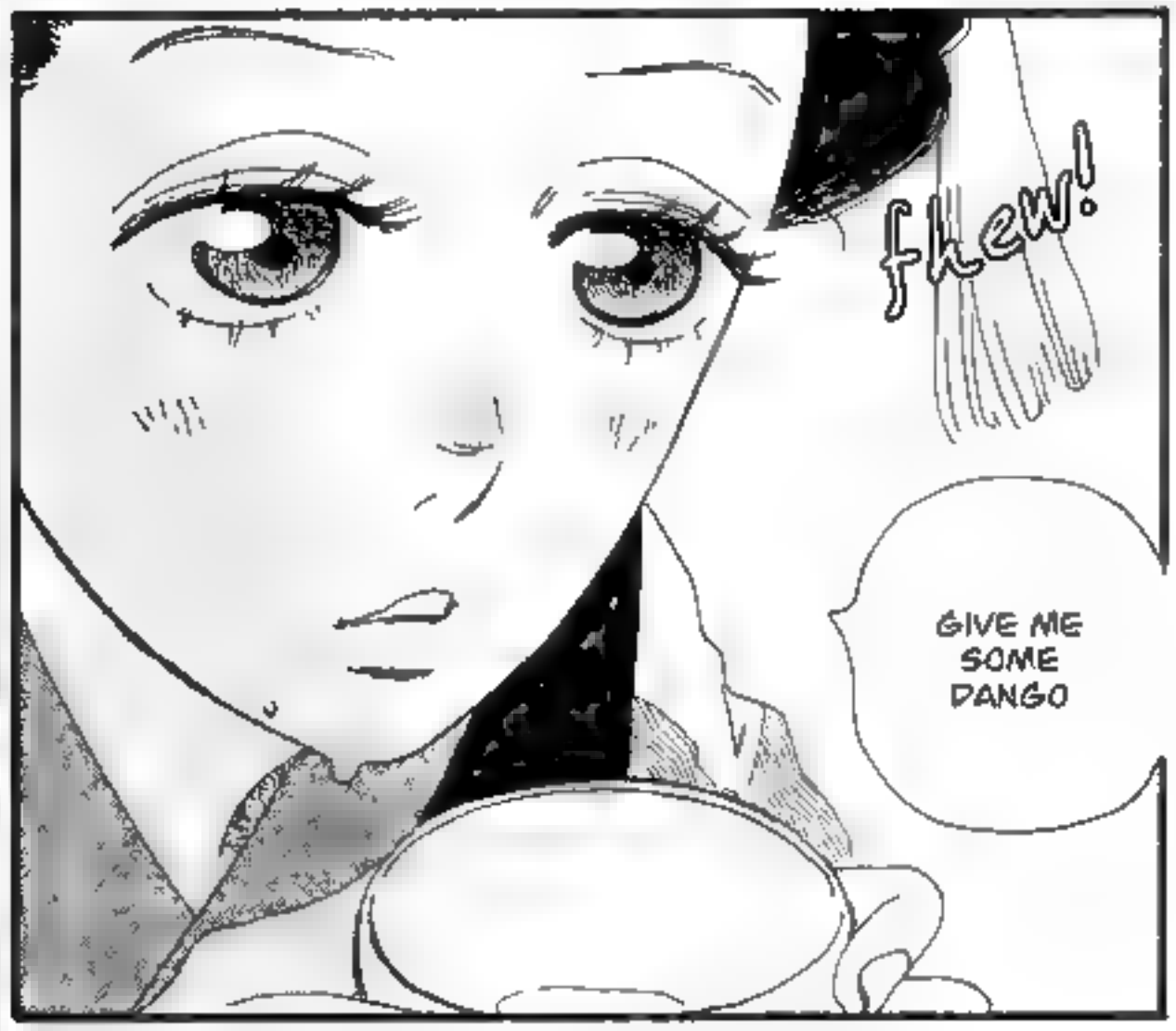
GIVE ME WATER.

WAIT R GHT THERE.

WILL YOU BE FINE NOT LYING DOWN UNDER THE ROOF?
I'LL BE FINE
I WANT TO SOAK UP THE SUN.
MUST BE SOME RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER.
HUH.
NICE KIMONO.



gulp
gulp


flew!
GIVE ME SOME DANGO

AND TEA.
YES.

SORRY?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE TRAVELED FROM QUITE AFAR.

YES.

WHAT CAN BE SEEN FAR AWAY THAT CAN'T BE SEEN HERE?

WELL,

I BET YOU'VE SEEN SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS.

EVERYWHERE'S ABOUT THE SAME.

ALMOST TO THE POINT OF CRUELTY...

BEAUTIFUL THINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL.

UGLY THINGS ARE UGLY.

HENCE THIS ENTIRE TRIP.

I STILL WANT TO SEE THEM WITH MY OWN EYES.

EVEN IF THEY'RE THE SAME,

WHAT IS IT?

THE TRUTH IS, I-

ALLOW ME TO CONFESS SOMETHING.

THESE HANDS TOOK THE LIFE OF THE ONLY DAUGHTER

FROM A LARGE STORE.

CAME HERE TO MURDER SOMEONE.

AT TH S VERY MINUTE,

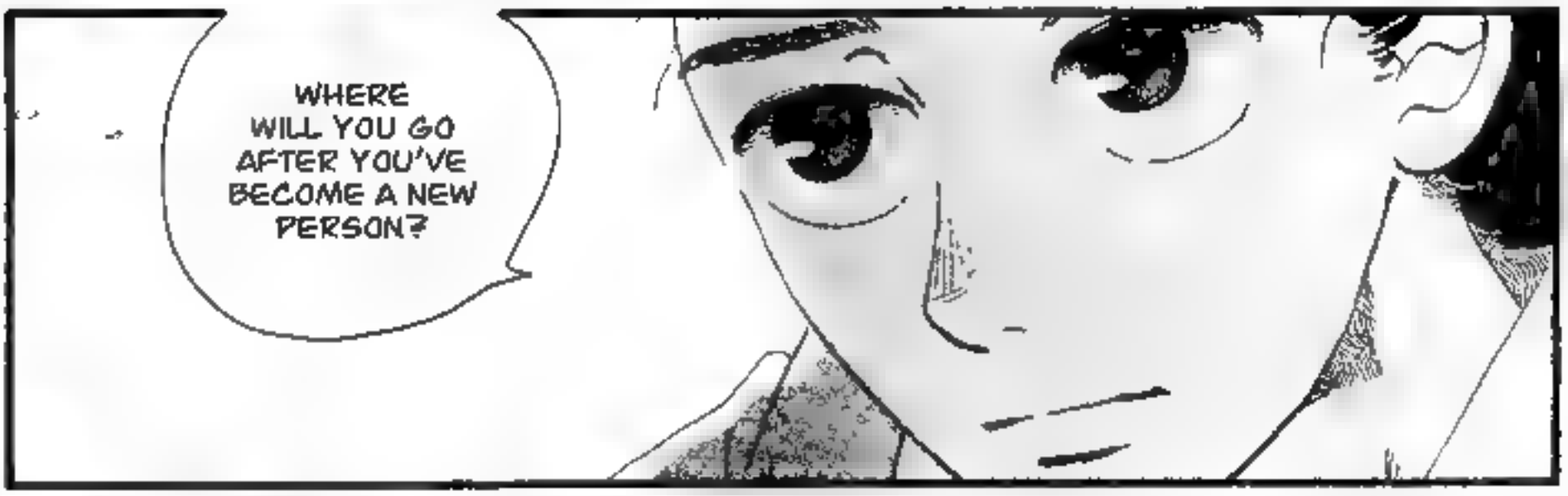
CLICK

MY PURSUERS WILL COME FOR ME SHORTLY.

Pfft!
PERHAPS

BUT YOUNG LADY,
RUNNING AWAY ISN'T THAT EASY.

THAT ONLY DAUGHTER YOU'VE MURDERED IS YOURSELF?
HA HA HA HA
.....
OF COURSE A PURSUER WILL COME!


WHERE WILL YOU GO AFTER YOU'VE BECOME A NEW PERSON?

WHAT IS MAKING YOU SO DISSATISFIED?

.....

I'LL MAKE THEM TAKE BACK THE DANGO THAT'S COMING

IF YOU KEEP SPOUTING SUCH DISTURBING TH NGS,

I HAVE A FIANCE

HE DRINKS WINE ALL DAY AND THEN ACTS VIOLENTLY.

HE'LL THROW TH NGS AND SHOUT AT EVERYONE.

HE'S TERRIFYING...

WHO HAPPENS TO BE A VERY FEROC OUS MAN.

THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE.

I WAS AT MY WIT'S END.

SO FINALLY YESTERDAY,

IF THEY BR NG ME BACK,

HE WON'T LET ME OFF EASY...

A SECRET!

DASH

PLEASE KEEP OUR MEETING

SWISH

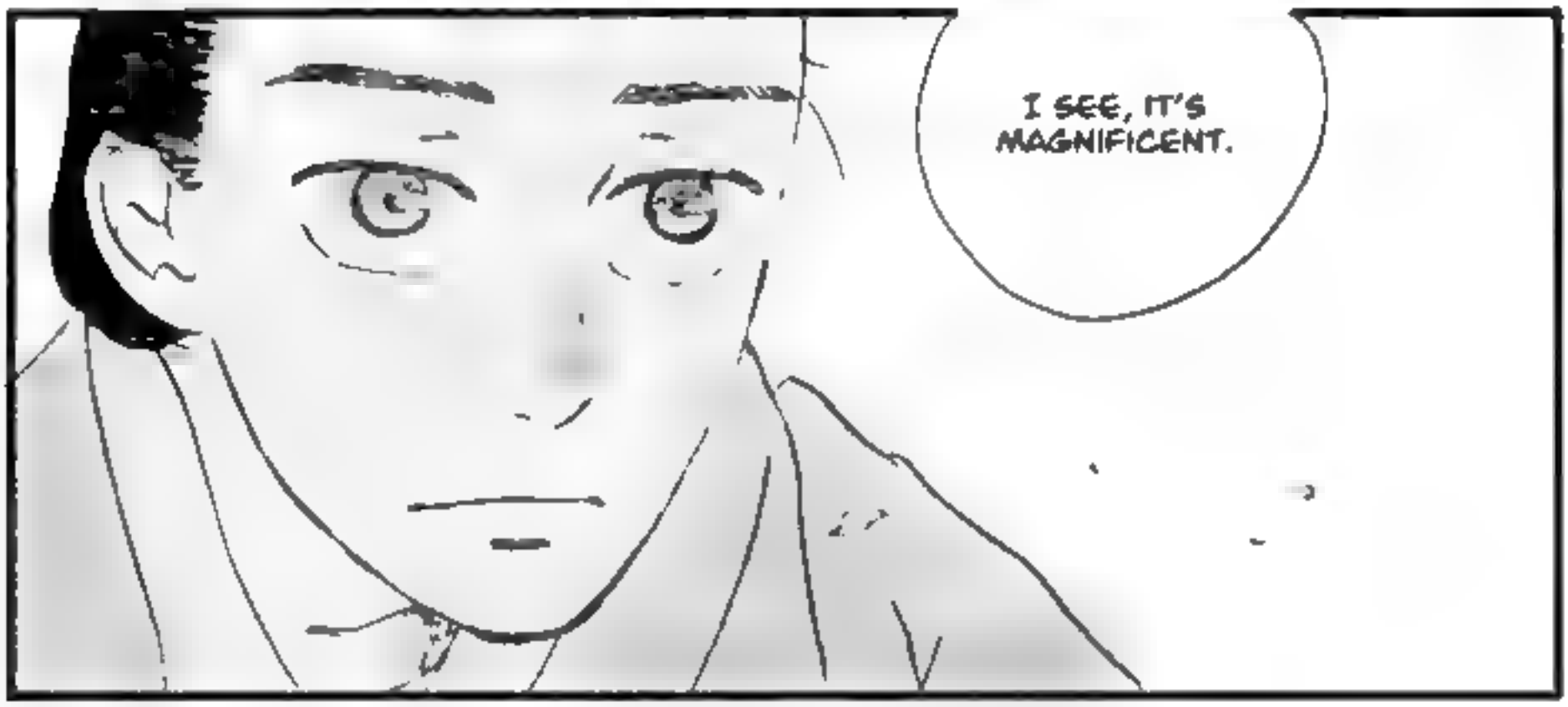
WAIT

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

RUSTLE

IT'S MY PURSUER...

I HEARD THIS VICINITY IS FAMOUS.


I SEE, IT'S MAGNIFICENT.

WHEN IT'S TOO BEAUTIFUL.

BUT IT'S A LITTLE UNSETTL NG

CHASE THAT MAN AWAY.

PLEASE.

I IMPLORE YOU...

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO

WHAT WERE YOU SPEAKING TO THE YOUNG LADY ABOUT?

YOU WERE TOGETHER JUST NOW.

SHE CAN BE REALLY UNMANAGEABLE.

EH?

I QUITE GAVE UP ON HER MYSELF.

H-

HEY! HEY!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WENT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WAIT, WAIT.

STOP THAT, FOOLISH GIRL.

tap tap

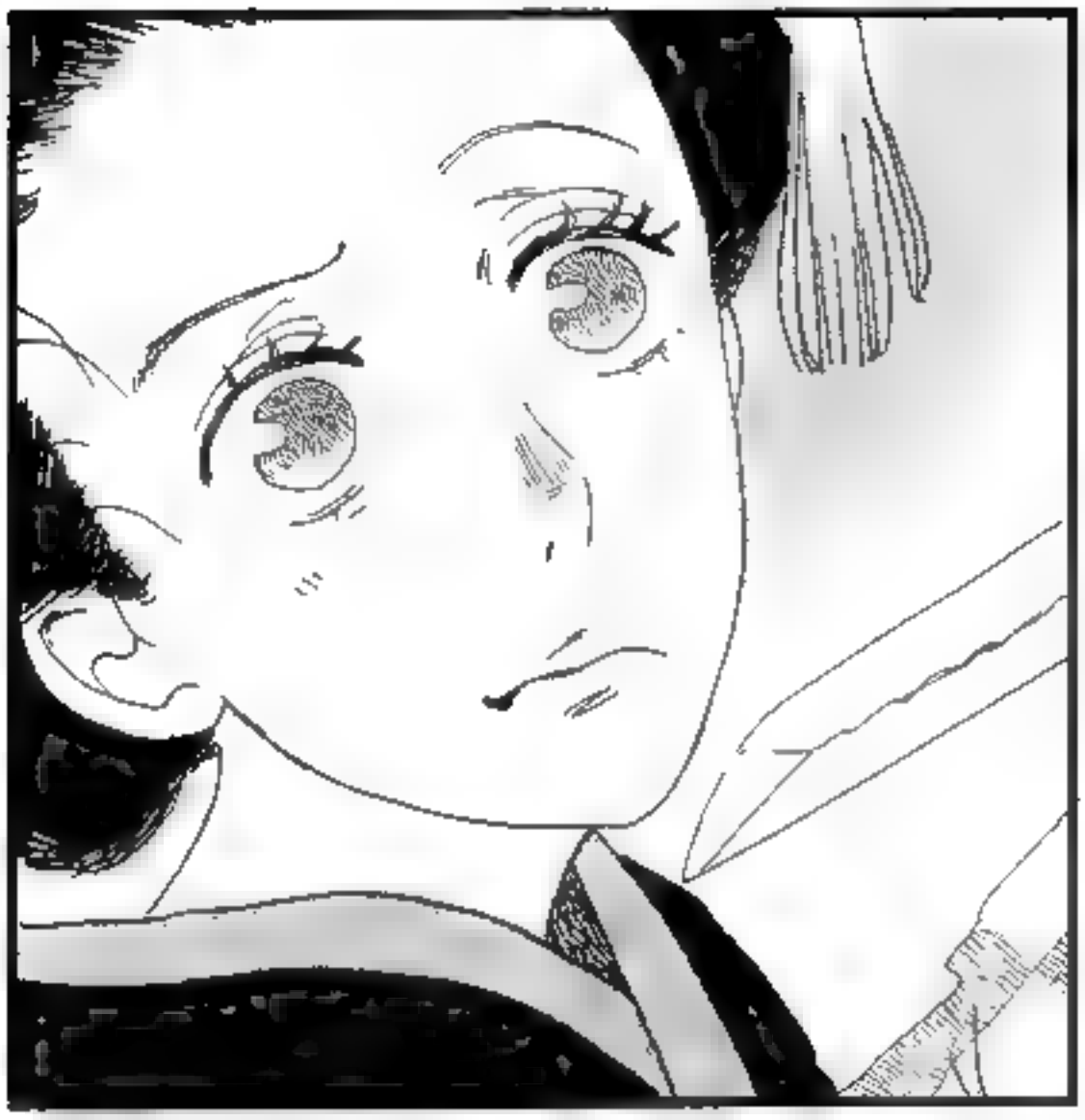
IT'S FINE.

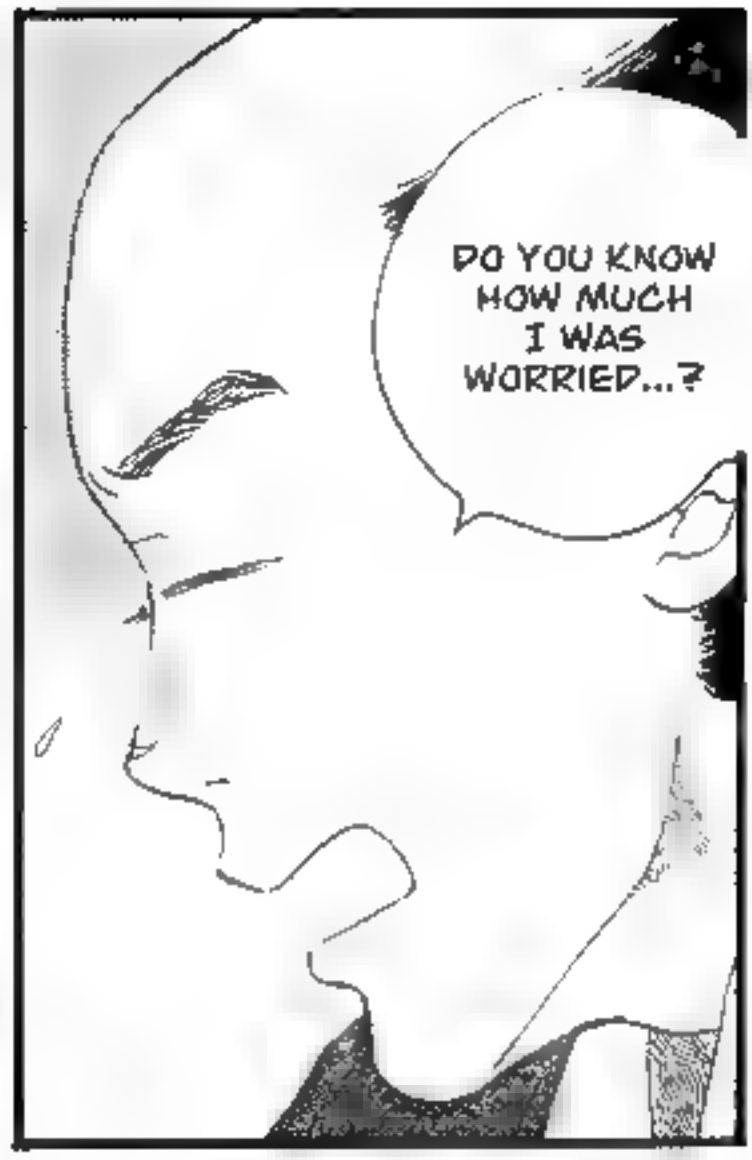
WHY ARE YOU BEHAVING LIKE THIS?

IF I CAN'T GET AWAY, THEN-

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON PLAYING AROUND?
tAP
ALL YOU'RE CAUSING IS TROUBLE!

YOUNG MISS!




DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WAS WORRIED...?

GOODNESS.
Snatch

WHEN WILL YOU FIX THIS VULGAR HABIT?
TOMORROW, WE'LL BE HUSBAND AND WIFE.

PLOUK

YOU EVEN MADE THIS

GADGET...

UGH.

SNAP

tmp

FALSE ALARM.

THE YOUNG LADY HAS A LOVE OF THEATER.

SHE SAID THE SCAR WAS FROM WHEN SHE FELL OFF A TREE LONG AGO

SHE D D ALL THOSE RIDICULOUS THINGS JUST TO GET HIS ATTENTION.

CAN'T BE HELPED.

YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

YES.

WHAT A BOTHERSOME COUPLE.

THEY PUT YOU IN AN AWKWARD POSITION, DIDN'T THEY?

THEY SEEM LIKE A PERFECT MATCH THOUGH.

BEFORE ALL OF THESE FLOWERS

GO INTO FULL BLOOM,

THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO SEE.

THAT IS ALL VERY WELL.
COME! THERE'S PLENTY TO DO WHILE THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS.
GOING, GOING.

Sakuhi / END

Afterword

Thank you for purchasing
the "Chiruhi" tankoban.
These short stories about Edo
were drawn out tale by tale, and
I'm so so happy that they were
collected together in this form.
Having fun with speculating about
the people who lived in Edo and
being cooped up working on this
sure became a habit.

I'm really grateful toward
my editor, Mizuno-san,
for her prompt and intense
data gathering.

Lastly,
to all those who have
read this manga,
I'd like to say once again,
many thanks!

Kawachi
Haruka

http://www.geocities.jp/pagisore_hal

CHIRUHI

by Kawachi Haruka

Story 6

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